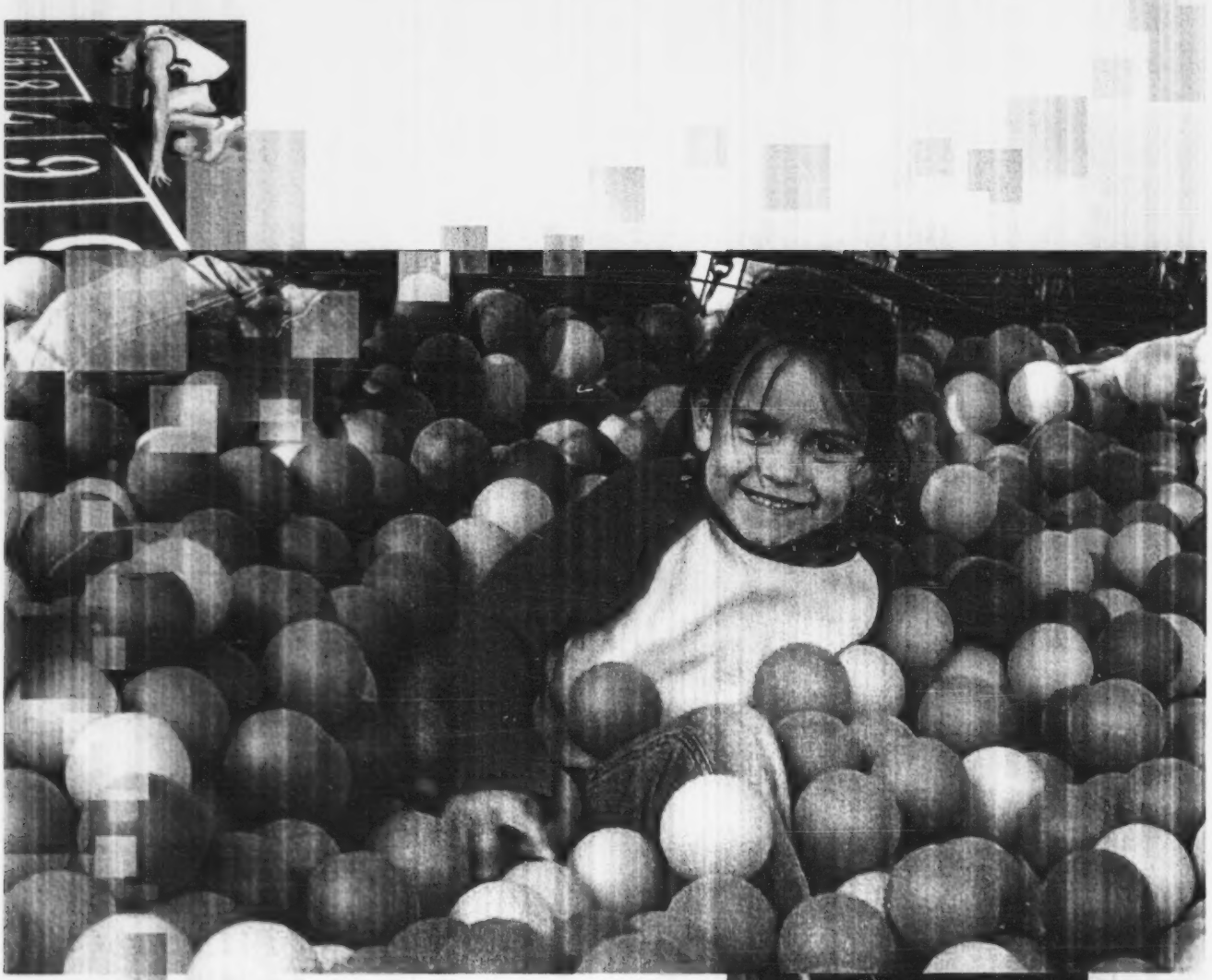
CITY OF WHITEHORSE

Annual Report
2007/08



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Our Vision, Mission and Values

OUR VISION

We aspire to be an inclusive, vibrant, prosperous and sustainable community.

OUR MISSION

Whitehorse City Council, working with residents and businesses, will develop this municipality through good governance, proactive strategic planning, efficient, responsive services and quality infrastructure.

OUR VALUES

In pursuing our goals, Whitehorse City Council believes in and is committed to these values:

- **Community Consultation:** Ensuring that members of our community are sufficiently informed and able to contribute to Council's decision-making processes.
- **Democracy and Leadership:** Recognising and valuing community participation in Council's decision-making as well as Council's role in providing leadership to the community.
- **Equity and Social Justice:** Sharing the benefits and burdens of living in Whitehorse, celebrating our cultural diversity and paying attention to the needs of our disadvantaged residents.
- **Integrity:** Making decisions and acting in ways that reflect our values.
- **Openness and Accountability:** Being transparent in decision-making, Council welcomes public scrutiny and community feedback.
- **Sustainability:** Making decisions about our social, economic, built and natural environments that will benefit both present and future generations.
- **Wellbeing:** Developing a community that is aware of, and seeks to achieve, personal and community wellbeing.

SECTION ONE

Highlights

WELCOME

Whitehorse Council is very proud to present its 2007 - 2008 Annual Report. This comprehensive document showcases Council's performance and achievements during the financial year from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 and presents a snapshot of the hundreds of services and programs that Council provides for its 151,000 residents.

The report features the major highlights of the year and details how Council is meeting the strategic objectives set out in the City of Whitehorse Council Plan 2006-2010 and the Vision 2006-2016. It also identifies the challenges and difficulties that Council has faced over the past 12 months. We hope you enjoy reading this important document and learning more about the wonderful City of Whitehorse.

Why do we have an Annual Report?

The Victorian *Local Government Act (1989)* requires all Councils to present an Annual Report to the Minister for Local Government by September 30 each year. As well as meeting this statutory requirement, Whitehorse Council regards the Annual Report as an important tool to keep its residents, businesses, staff and potential employees, state and federal politicians, peak bodies, community groups and organisations informed about our performance and future plans.

Where to find this report

Copies of this report are available at Council's Customer Service Centres at Nunawading, Box Hill and Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre and at our libraries. It can also be accessed electronically at Council's website at: www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au For further information, phone Council on 9262 6333.

About Whitehorse

OUR LOCATION

The City of Whitehorse is located just 15 kilometres east of Melbourne and covers an area of 64 square kilometres. The municipality is bounded by the City of Manningham to the north, the Cities of Maroondah and Knox to the east, the City of Monash to the south and the City of Boroondara to the west. Whitehorse's suburbs include Blackburn, Blackburn North, Blackburn South, Box Hill, Box Hill North, Box Hill South, Burwood, Burwood East, Forest Hill, Mitcham, Mont Albert, Mont Albert North, Nunawading, Surrey Hills, Vermont and Vermont South.

OUR RESIDENTS

Whitehorse has a population of approximately 151,000 residents with almost one-third born overseas. The 2006 Census data shows that more than 110 different languages are spoken by residents of the City. The most common languages other than English are Cantonese, Mandarin, Greek, Italian, Vietnamese, Hindi, German, Sinhalese, Korean, Indonesian and Arabic.

The 2006 Census data also reveals that approximately 66% of Whitehorse's residents are aged between 18 and 69, 21% are aged under 18 years, and 13% are aged over 70.

Volunteering is an important part of the lives of many people living in Whitehorse with 20.5% of residents volunteering to help the community in some capacity compared to 15.5% for the Melbourne average.

OUR HISTORY

The City of Whitehorse was proclaimed in December 1994, following the amalgamation of the former cities of Box Hill and Nunawading. The birth of the City reunited the suburbs which formed the original Shire of Nunawading more than 100 years ago. The municipality derives its namesake and logo from a white horse dating back to the 1850s, when a white horse statue adorned the front entrance of the City's first hotel and two-storey building. Today, a memorial stands on the former site of the hotel and the white horse symbolizes the City's identity.

The City is also recognised as the home of the Arts, stemming from its relationship with Box Hill as the original site of the Artists Camp. In 1885, artists established the first of their camps at Box Hill, and whilst the camp only lasted three years, some of the artists, including Frederick McCubbin, returned to the area often.

The City has an impressive art collection containing a total of nine works by members of the Box Hill Artists Camp, including works by McCubbin, Roberts and Streeton.

OUR LOGO

The City's logo is modelled on the knight, which is one of the most powerful and flexible pieces in the game of chess. The significance of the white horse emanates from the historical and mythological representation of strength, courage and fertility. The symbol of the white horse in celtic mythology comes from the Goddess Epona (Gaul), Macha (Eire) and Rhiannon (Britain), each a guardian of good fortune 'for monarch and tribe'. In astrology the white horse characterises freedom, strength and growth.

SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Whitehorse Council provides more than 100 high quality services and facilities across a range of areas including Community Services, Environmental Services, Customer Services, Health and Wellbeing; Planning and Building; Parks and Gardens and more. *See pages 20-22 for the services provided by Council.*

OUR STAFF

Council values its staff and the contribution they make to the organisation and the wider community. As at June 30, 2008 Council had 1182 employees which included 372 full time, 525 part time and 285 casual staff.

Whitehorse has a high percentage of staff who live locally with approximately 43% of the workforce, (507 staff members) living in the municipality.

For more on our staff, see page 33.

FEATURES

Whitehorse is uniquely characterised by quiet tree-lined residential streets (with some areas dating back to the 1940s), a wealth of parks, gardens and natural bushland reserves, a range of bustling shopping centres, and many arts and cultural opportunities, and sports and leisure facilities.

The Whitehorse community has access to an extensive public transport system with trains, trams and buses all widely serving the area. Whitehorse boasts some of the region's leading educational, medical and leisure facilities and is home to the largest high technology precinct in eastern Melbourne, placing it at the cutting edge of the telecommunications, multimedia and information technology industry.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Whitehorse has many attractions for its residents and visitors to discover and experience including:

- Box Hill Town Hall which has been transformed into a vibrant hub for Whitehorse community groups incorporating an accredited art space to display Council's comprehensive art collection and a convenient meeting place for local businesses.
- The Whitehorse Centre, the City's premier arts and cultural centre which attracts thousands of theatre lovers each year. The Whitehorse Professional Theatre and Music Season showcases some of the best professional theatre from around the country at the Whitehorse Centre.
- Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex in Mitcham is a heritage listed pioneer's stone cottage in a garden setting surrounded by 2.25 hectares of bushland. This popular attraction is open to the community on weekends.
- The Box Hill Community Arts Centre is an artistic and cultural hub and home to a wide variety of local arts and community groups. The centre offers art and craft classes, an exhibition space, art shop and community meeting space.
- Blackburn Lake Sanctuary is one of the area's most important environmental assets and is regarded as one of the most important bird refuges in metropolitan Melbourne.
- Aqualink Nunawading and Aqualink Box Hill are state-of-the-art leisure facilities that attract thousands of people each week.
- An outstanding range of community events and festivals, including Australia Day celebrations, the annual Spring Festival, Summer Music Series and Carols by Candlelight.

OFFICE AND CONTACT DETAILS

Council's main administration office and Customer Service Centre is located at:

379-397 Whitehorse Road,
Nunawading, Victoria 3131

Hours: Weekdays 8.30am - 5.30pm.
Cashiers open for payment weekdays 8.40am - 5pm

Other Service Centres are located at:

Box Hill Town Hall
1022 Whitehorse Road,
Box Hill, Victoria 3128

Hours: Weekdays 9am-5pm

Shop 130, Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre
Canterbury Road,

Forest Hill Victoria 3131
Hours: Weekdays 9am - 5pm. Saturday, 9am - 12pm

Council's postal address is:

City of Whitehorse, Locked Bag 2,
Nunawading Delivery Centre. 3131

Chief Executive Officer's Message

It gives me great pleasure to report that the 2007-08 financial year was both successful and rewarding for the City of Whitehorse.

Council delivered $117 million worth of services, projects and programs to our residents compared to $112 million the previous year. We continued to meet the strategic objectives set out in our Council Plan, demonstrating again that Whitehorse Council is committed to fulfilling the goals and aspirations of the community.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

In 2007-08 Council presented a balanced budget for the eighth consecutive year and at the same continued to have one of the lowest levels of rates in metropolitan Victoria.

While we used a small amount of money from our $30 million Development Reserve to fund part of the Vermont South Multipurpose Indoor Sports Facility, this money will be returned to the reserve over the next few years as outlined in our Council Plan.

For more information on Council's financial performance I invite you to read the financial summary on page 14 and the detailed financial section on page 83 of this report.

CAPITAL WORKS

2007-08 was another big year for Capital Works with Council spending $25.9 million on Capital Works projects compared with $22.5 million in 2006/07. This was in line with a commitment in our long term financial plan to spend $300 million on Capital Works projects over a 10 year period.

This year's Capital Works projects covered a broad range of areas and included projects to upgrade roads and footpaths, parks and sports fields, playgrounds, buildings, plant and equipment, shopping centres and leisure facilities across the City.

HIGHLIGHTS

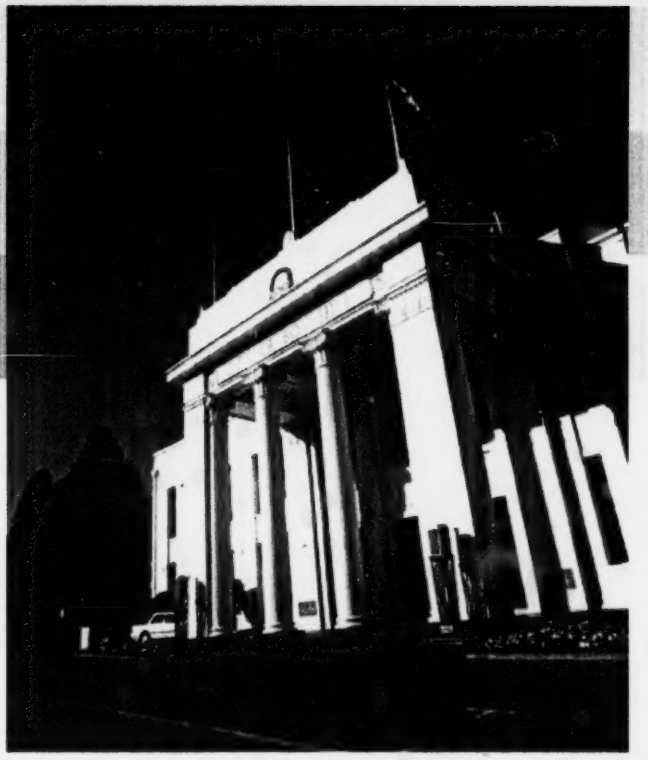
As you will discover when reading this Annual Report, there have been many highlights during 2007-08 with the major one being the start of construction of the $8.3 million Vermont South Multipurpose Indoor Sports Facility. This state-of-the-art facility has been in the planning stages for many years so the turning of the first sod by our Mayor, and the start of construction in April 2008, were major milestones.

The facility is expected to be operational in late 2008. It will feature four indoor and four outdoor courts and has the potential to accommodate a range of sporting groups including netball, basketball, indoor soccer and volleyball.

Other major projects that got underway during 2007-08 were the redevelopment of the Civic Centre in Nunawading and the upgrade of the Eley Park Community Centre in Blackburn South. The Civic Centre project involves building a link between the existing Municipal Offices, the Council Chambers and library to better accommodate staff and allow Council to continue delivering high-quality services to residents.

The Eley Park Community Centre upgrade is an excellent example of the Federal, State and Local Government working together to fund a project that provides much-needed services and programs to our residents.

For more information on these projects see Major Projects on page 23.



ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

Whitehorse Council continues to take a strong lead in advocating on behalf of our community for Government funding and support for a range of critical projects. During 2007-08 our ongoing campaigns included:

- Finding a solution to the traffic and transport congestion at the intersection of Whitehorse and Springvale Roads, and the nearby Nunawading railway crossing. Council has achieved considerable success in the past 12 months. In partnership with the Federal and State Government we undertook a detailed study funded by the Federal Government to determine the best solution to address the serious problems at this location. In November 2007 Council welcomed the commitment from the new Federal Government of $80 million towards a solution.
- Through our membership on a number of key regional groups and committees, Council continues to push for increased Government funding to achieve sustainable and integrated transport services. These groups also work towards addressing key issues including public transport capacity, infrastructure, road networks, urban amenity, safety and traffic congestion, and address public transport capacity.
- Continuing our campaign to secure funding from both the State and Federal Governments to contribute towards the $20 million plus needed for the Box Hill Transport Interchange upgrade — the busiest public transport interchange in Victoria outside the CBD.

For further information on these and more of the Advocacy Campaigns that Council is leading or involved in, see page 30.

COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

Council has continued its commitment to sustainability as a key priority underpinning all of our day-to-day operations. In April 2008 Council adopted the Whitehorse Sustainability Strategy 2008-2013: Our EcoVision which sets the sustainability agenda for Council and community for the next five years. This is a major step forward as the strategy builds on the work we have done in this area in recent years and includes actions and targets to guide our future direction. For further details of our sustainability achievements in the past twelve months see page 27.

THANK YOU

I would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution the Councillors have made to the City and particularly thank the Mayor, Councillor John Koutras, for his strong leadership and direction.

Thank you also to our Council staff for their hard work, dedication and professionalism. Without their efforts all of the wonderful achievements we have recorded in the past 12 months would not have been possible.

Noelene Duff

Chief Executive Officer

Due to the impending Council election in November 2008 and the caretaker period required by the Local Government Act (1989), there is no Mayor's column in the 2007-08 Annual Report. Details of the Mayor and all Whitehorse Councillors can be found on the next page.

Democracy In Whitehorse

ABOUT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government is the 'third arm' of Government in Australia, alongside the State and Federal Parliaments. It is the most accessible level of government for the average citizen. The City of Whitehorse is one of 79 municipalities in Victoria, which range from big metropolitan cities to small country shires.

The City of Whitehorse, like the State and Federal Governments, has a 'legislature' made up of elected representatives (Councillors). Councillors are concerned citizens who have offered themselves for election as representatives of the residents of the City's electoral wards. They receive no salary, just an annual allowance.

For more information about Victorian Local Government visit the websites of:

- Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) **www.mav.asn.au**
- Local Government Professionals (LGPro) **www.lgpro.com**
- Australian Local Government Association **www.alga.asn.au**

OUR COUNCILLORS

The City of Whitehorse has 10 Councillors elected by residents to govern the City. Councillors work together to set Council's strategic direction and to make important decisions regarding the whole municipality. In making these decisions Councillors consider the views of, and consult with the community. They also work closely with the Chief Executive Officer and Council administration.

Whitehorse is divided into five wards, with two Councillors elected to represent each ward. The Mayor is chosen by the Councillors to serve as the principal ambassador for the City for a twelve month term.

Ordinary Council Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month and Special Committee Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. All meetings are held in the Council Chamber at the Whitehorse Civic Centre at 379 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading except the January Ordinary Council Meeting which is held at the Box Hill Town Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend both Ordinary Council Meetings or Special Committee Meetings.

Due to redevelopment works at the Whitehorse Civic Centre, Ordinary Council Meetings and Special Committee Meetings from October 22, 2007 were held at the Whitehorse Centre. Meetings recommenced in the redeveloped Council Chamber from October 20, 2008.

The following Councillors were elected in November 2005 to serve until the Local Government elections in November 2008 (wards listed alphabetically):

Central Ward:

Cr Peter Allan JP

Address: 34 Elmhurst Road, Blackburn 3130
Phone: 9878 6874
Email: pallan@whitehorse.net.au

Official Council appointments from December 17, 2007 to September 29, 2008:

- Local Government's Waste Management Forum to support the Waste Management Group.
- Metropolitan Transport Forum.
- Advisory Committee for the Review of the Chief Executive Officer's Development.
- Councillor Budget Reference Working Group.
- Indoor Sports Facility Focus Group.

Central Ward:

Cr Hayley Clarke

Address: 25 Malabar Road, Blackburn 3130
Phone: 9894 7536
Email: hclarke@whitehorse.net.au

Official Council appointments from December 17, 2007 to November 29, 2008:

- Whitehorse Business Group.
- Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Councillor contact for sustainable transport (shared).
- Advisory Committee for the Review of the Chief Executive Officer's Development.
- Audit Advisory Committee.
- Whitehorse Municipal Early Years Plan.

Elgar Ward:

Cr Robert Chong OAM
Address: PO Box 34, Box Hill 3128
Phone: 9894 3713

Email: rchong@whitehorse.net.au

Official Council appointments from December 17, 2007 to November 29, 2008

- Audit Advisory Committee.
- City of Whitehorse Scholarship Committee.
- Visual Arts Committee.
- Councillor Budget Reference Working Group.

Elgar Ward:

Cr Helen Harris OAM

Address: 40 William Street, Box Hill 3128
Phone: 9897 1312
Email: hharris@whitehorse.net.au

Official Council appointments from December 17, 2007 to November 29, 2008

- MAV Victorian Sustainability Network.
- Local Government ESD Advisory Group.
- Eastern Transport Coalition.
- MAV Councillor Contact for Sustainable Transport (shared).
- Heritage Steering Committee.
- Indoor Sports Facility Focus Group.

Morack Ward: Cr Bill Bowie

Cr Bowie's official Council appointments from December 17, 2007 to July 25, 2008 were:

- Visual Arts Committee.
- Whitehorse Business Week 2008 Planning Team.
- Councillor Budget Reference Working Group.
- Indoor Sports Facility Focus Group.
- MAV Water Task Force.
- Acting Mayor.

Vale Cr Bill Bowie (28 January 1945 – 25 July 2008)

The City of Whitehorse was saddened to learn of the passing of Cr Bill Bowie who died on July 25, 2008. Cr Bowie had worked tirelessly in representing the Whitehorse community and was involved in championing many community causes, projects and activities. His passion was always the arts and sport, and over the last couple of years, he played a key role in the development of the Multipurpose Indoor Sports facility in Vermont South, of which he was most proud. Cr Bowie will be remembered as a caring person who loved Whitehorse and who devoted all his energy and enthusiasm to improving the quality of life of our community. He will be sadly missed by all who had the pleasure to know him.

Morack Ward:

Cr George Droutsas

Address: Locked Bag 2, Nunawading Delivery Centre 3110
Phone: 9897 1938
Email: gdroutsas@whitehorse.net.au

No official Council appointments from December 17, 2007 to November 29, 2008

Riversdale Ward:

Cr Sharon Ellis

Address: PO Box 8178, Burwood Heights 3151
Phone: 9890 8057
Email: sellis@whitehorse.net.au

Official Council appointments from December 17, 2007 to November 29, 2008:

- Council's delegate to the MAV.
- Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation.
- RSL-City of Whitehorse Scholarship Committee.
- Advisory Committee for the Review of the Chief Executive Officer's Development.
- Chair Disability Advisory Committee.
- Chair Municipal Public Health Plan.
- Chair Responsible Gambling Policy and Action Plan.

Riversdale Ward:

Cr John Koutras

Address: PO Box 8066, Burwood Heights 3151
Phone: 9888 8732
Email: jkoutras@whitehorse.net.au

Official Council appointments from December 17, 2007 to November 29, 2008:

- Elected Mayor for a second term on December 5, 2007.
- International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI).
- ICLEI Water Conservation Program.
- Whitehorse Business Group Incorporated.
- City of Whitehorse Scholarship Committee.
- Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation.
- Advisory Committee for the Review of the Chief Executive Officer's Development.
- Councillor Budget Reference Working Group.

Springfield Ward:

Cr Chris Aubrey

Address: 34 Wood Street, Nunawading 3131
Phone: 9894 7655
Email: chris.aubrey@whitehorse.net.au

Official Council appointments from December 17, 2007 to November 29, 2008:

- MAV (substitute Councillor).
- MAV Planning Advisory Group.
- MAV Strategic Environment Advisory Group.
- MAV Melbourne 2030 Local Government Reference Group.
- Partnership Group for the Nunawading / MegaMile Major Activity Centre and Mitcham Neighbourhood Activity Centre Structure Plan.
- Eastlink Community Advisory Group.
- Reconciliation Action Plan Reference Group.
- Councillor Budget Reference Working Group.

Springfield Ward:

Cr Ben Stennett

Address: PO Box 120, Nunawading 3131
Phone: 9878 2472
Email: bstennett@whitehorse.net.au

Official Council appointments from
December 17, 2007 to November 29, 2008:

- Elected to Council in July 2007
- Partnership Group for the Nunawading / MegaMile Major Activity Centre and Mitcham Neighbourhood Activity Centre Structure Plan
- MAV ASPO Peak Oil Task Force
- Heritage Steering Committee
- Disability Advisory Committee
- Chair Whitehorse Municipal Early Years Plan

WARD BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of Whitehorse's five wards remain predominantly the same except for some minor changes to the dividing ward boundary between Central and Springfield Wards. This follows an Electoral Representation Review by the Victorian Electoral Commission in the first half of 2007. Whitehorse's existing ward boundary map as at June 30, 2008 is provided below. For information about the ward boundaries after the November 2008 election, visit www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au under Councillors and Meetings / Council Wards.

Council Organisation

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
NOELENE DUFF

GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES	GENERAL MANAGER CITY DEVELOPMENT	GENERAL MANAGER HUMAN SERVICES	GENERAL MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE
Peter Smith	**Paul Kearsley**	**Terry Wilkinson**	**Phil Warner**
FINANCE & INFORMATION SERVICES **Marc Giglio**	DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY & BUSINESS SERVICES **Peter Panagakos**	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT **Debbie Seddon**	CAPTIAL WORKS **David Logan**
ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT **Pauline Bennett**	ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES **Ian Goodes**	HOME & COMMUNITY CARE **Jocelyn Fuller**	COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS **Garry Younger**
COMPLIANCE **Steven Morison**	URBAN DESIGN **Carolynne MacNaughtan**	HEALTH & FAMILY SERVICES **Tony Johnson**	CITY WORKS **Ilias Kostopoulos**
PROPERTY & RATES **Greg Stevens**		ARTS & RECREATION DEVELOPMENT **Bill Morrison**	PARKSWIDE **David Digby**

- CIVIC SERVICES — **Tony De Fazio**
- EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT MAYOR & CRS — **Doreen Hastas**
- COMMUNICATIONS — **Sally Freud**
- EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT — **Jo George**

Executive Team

Whitehorse City Council's Executive Team comprises the Chief Executive Officer, Noelene Duff, and four General Managers who together are responsible for the following main divisions:

- Executive Services
- City Development
- Human Services
- Corporate Services
- Infrastructure

The CEO and each of the General Managers are supported by qualified managers and staff who are responsible for the delivery of services to the City.

EXECUTIVE PROFILES

Noelene Duff
Chief Executive Officer

Prior to joining the City of Whitehorse in 2000, Noelene was Director of Customer Services at the City of Monash and had held management roles in State and Local Government including Senior Policy Adviser Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Health Department of Victoria. She has also worked as a social worker in Local Government, the community sector and the voluntary sector.

Qualifications: Noelene has a Master in Business, Graduate Diploma in Business, Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Arts. Professional roles have included President of Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA), the national peak body for Local Government managers, and President of Local Government Professionals (LGPro), the Victorian association for Local Government professionals. She is also a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the Institute of Public Affairs Australia, LGMA and LGPro, as well as a member of the Box Hill Institute Board and of Council's Audit Committee.

Areas of responsibility: As CEO, Noelene is responsible for the overall management and performance of all Council operations. The four General Managers report to her and she is directly responsible for the Civic Services and Communications Departments.

Highlights of 2007-08:

- Delivering $117 million worth of services, projects and programs to the Whitehorse community.
- Continuing to meet Whitehorse's strategic objectives set out in the Council Plan.
- Providing $728,000 in cash grants and more than $250,000 in discounted support to over 200 community groups through the Community Grants Program.

Challenges ahead:

- Continue to effectively manage and improve Whitehorse's assets for the benefit of the community.
- Work with the newly elected Council from November 2008 to set the strategic direction of the organisation for the coming year.
- Maintain a resource base that gives Council the capability to continue to meet the future needs of our ratepayers.
- Continue advocating for funding assistance for desperately needed infrastructure improvements to State Government assets throughout Whitehorse, including the Box Hill Transport Interchange and the Box Hill Hospital.

Paul Kearsley
General Manager City Development

Paul joined Whitehorse in February 2003 as the Manager of Planning and Building Services and was appointed to his current role of General Manager City Development in August 2003. He has had broad experience working in State and Local Government, as well as private consulting. Prior to joining Whitehorse, Paul worked for a number of Councils, including the Cities of Essendon, Casey, Yarra and the City of Cairns in Queensland.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Applied Science in Planning (Distinction) from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT).

Areas of responsibility: Development Strategy and Business Services, Engineering and Environmental Services and Urban Design.

Highlights of 2007-08:

- Achievements in sustainable transport issues through the TravelSmart programs with Box Hill Institute and Box Hill Hospital.
- Adoption of the Whitehorse Sustainability Strategy 2008-2013: Our EcoVision which sets Council's sustainability agenda for the next five years.
- Finalising the structure plan for Mitcham, Nunawading and MegaMile.
- Approval of the Development Plan for Burwood Square.
- Staging successful events including Whitehorse Business Week and Sustainable Living Week.
- Completing improvement works in Bruce Street, Box Hill.
- Securing $80 million in Federal Government funding for the Springvale/Whitehorse Road intersection and Nunawading railway line.
- Commencing the Whitehorse Civic Centre upgrade project.

Challenges ahead:

- Ongoing involvement and advocacy for the Whitehorse and Springvale Roads and Nunawading railway crossing project.
- Advocating for improvements to the Box Hill Transport Interchange.
- Implementing numerous structure plans in the municipality.
- Implementing urban design projects across Whitehorse.
- Developing an updated Energy Action Plan.
- Ensuring Council plays a role in the issue of affordable housing.
- Implementing the Whitehorse Sustainability Strategy 2008-2013: Our EcoVision.

Terry Wilkinson
General Manager Human Services

Prior to joining Whitehorse in 2003, Terry had broad experience working in the Human Services area of Local Government with positions at the City of Maroondah and the Shire of Yarra Ranges. She has also worked in not-for-profit child and family support agencies.

Qualifications: Graduate Diploma in Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration.

Areas of responsibility: Community Development, Aged and Disability Services, Health and Family Services, and Arts and Recreation Development.

Highlights of 2007-08:

- Completing the project to relocate the Box Hill War Memorials to a specially developed landscaped commemorative site at Box Hill Gardens.
- Adopting and implementing the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy.
- Starting the redevelopment of the Eley Park Community Centre in Blackburn South.
- Developing important plans including the Municipal Health Plan, Disability Action Plan and Diversity Policy and Action Plan that set the future direction for Whitehorse in areas of social welfare.

Challenges ahead:

- Consultation and design phases of Aqualink Box Hill redevelopment.
- Managing the sustainability and use of sportsfields under the ongoing drought conditions.

Peter Smith
General Manager Corporate Services

Peter came to Whitehorse in July 2007 following nine years at Telstra, most recently as General Manager Financial Assurance and Development. Prior to this he had held various corporate and financial roles with Eastman Kodak Asia Pacific in Tokyo and Kodak Australasia.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Commerce from Melbourne University, and a registered CPA with CPA Australia.

Areas of responsibility: Finance and Information Services, Organisation Development, Compliance, and Property and Rates.

Highlights of 2007-08:

- Adopting the Domestic Animal Management Plan that was developed following broad community consultation.
- Implementing the TRIM Electronic Document Management System which will improve the management of corporate information.
- Developing the Tenure Management Program for corporate property leases. This program will assist in the day-to-day management of tenure occupancies on Council owned and managed property.

Challenges ahead:

- Year One implementation of Whitehorse's IT Strategic Plan that will address Council's technology requirements for the next three to five years.
- Attraction and retention of high quality staff to work at the City of Whitehorse.
- Continuing steady progress towards achieving the financial sustainabilty measures set out by the Victorian Auditor General, ensuring that Whitehorse is able to deliver services and capital works that will meet the needs of its community for many years to come.

Phil Warner
General Manager Infrastructure

Phil joined Whitehorse in 1995 and has held a number of different management positions within Council. Phil was appointed to his current position as General Manager Infrastructure in June 2003. He has extensive experience in Local Government management roles including Manager Strategic Projects and Manager Statutory and Development Services.

Qualifications: Diploma of Environmental Science, Graduate Diploma in Highway and Traffic Engineering and Diploma Company Directors Course. Fellow of LGPro and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia.

Areas of responsibility: Capital Works, Commercial Operations, City Works and ParksWide.

Highlights of 2007-08:

- Delivering a $25.9 million capital works program.
- Implementing a Sustainable Drought Management Plan for sportsfields and continuing to manage and maintain Whitehorse's parks, sportsfields, street trees and road vegetation in drought conditions.
- The ParksWide department's nomination for a Work Safe award for development of an innovative self-locking wing on tractor mowers.
- Being named one of Victoria's top performing Council's in the 2008 MAV Step audit in relation to the development of Council's Asset Management Practices.

Challenges ahead:

- Managing open space in the current drought environment coupled with severe water restrictions, and reinstating drought affected areas including ovals, general open space, trees and garden beds.
- Ensuring staff and key stakeholders take ownership and are involved in implementing Council's integrated Asset Management System.
- Ensuring Council's buildings comply with the *Disability Discrimination Act (1992)* and the Essential Services Regulations.
- Implementation of appropriate work practices in township cleansing and at the Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre.

Financial Summary

The City Whitehorse has a responsible Long Term Financial Plan covering a 10-year period and aimed at achieving financial sustainability for the Council. The Long Term Financial Plan helps Council meet the strategic objectives set out in its Council Plan, and in doing so, provide a wide range of services, programs and facilities, as well as maintain and improve the City's infrastructure.

As part of the Long-Term Financial Plan, Whitehorse will spend more than $300 million on capital works and maintain a cash balanced budget.

Below is a snapshot of Council's financial performance in 2007-08. See page 83 for the full Financial Report.

AT A GLANCE

- $117.6 million total operating budget delivered.
- $25.9 million capital works program delivered.
- $59.8 million total rates revenue, which was 50.45% of Council's total revenue.
- $1.4 million operating surplus.
- $62.8 million cash and cash equivalent holdings.
- $1.7 billion in assets.
- $36.7 million total liabilities.
- $3 million debt.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Council achieved a better than expected net result for 2007-08 ending the year with a surplus of $1.4 million. This compared to a deficit of $4 million in 2006-07.

The $1.4 million surplus was due to a number of factors including:

- An unexpected $3.2 million capital grant from the State and Federal Governments for the purchase of a parcel of land in Lake Road, Blackburn.
- Higher than expected interest received due to improved interest rates and a change in investment strategy. Council received a higher return from investing a greater proportion of funds in term deposits.
- Savings as a result of lower than anticipated waste collection costs for general recycling and green waste services.

These factors helped to offset higher employee costs caused by an allowance made for redundancies due to the anticipated sale of Nunawading and Dorking Road residential aged care facilities.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Council's eighth consecutive cash balanced budget included revenue for 2007-08 of $118.9 million while expenditure was $117.6 million. This compared to $108.5 million in revenue and $112.5 million in expenditure in 2006-07.

Council's revenue comes from rates, government grants, fees and charges, interest, and other contributions. In 2007-8, 50.45% of Council revenue was generated through rates, 18.05% through government grants, 3.18% from interest, and 26.88% through fees and charges.

Council's main expenditure was in the following areas:

- $48.8 million in employee costs which included $42 million in wages and salaries and $4.9 million in superannuation.
- $40.4 million in materials and contracts which included $11.9 million in waste and recycling, $7.9 million in office and administration, and $6.9 million in engineering and infrastructure.
- $21.4 million in depreciation, which included depreciation of $7.5 million for roads, footpaths, kerb and channel, and $4.4 million for depreciation of buildings.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Council's cash balance as of June 30, 2008 was $62.8 million compared to a $58.8 million cash balance for the previous financial year.

This is as a result of:

- Stronger cash generated from operating activities for the year.
- Cash received from the State and Federal Governments for the purchase of the land in Lake Road, Blackburn.

Council's total net assets at June 30, 2008 were $1.7 billion, compared with $1.6 billion for the previous year. The main reasons for the movement in the value of the assets were:

- Revaluation of drainage assets at $17.5 million.
- Capital works program of $25.9 million.
- Depreciation allowance of $21.4 million.

Council's total liabilities as at June 30, 2008 were $36.7 million which included employee benefits of $10.2 million, loans of $3 million and trade creditors, accruals and money held in trust of $23.7 million. This compared with $30.5 million in total liabilities at June 30, 2007.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Council is preparing for its ninth cash balanced budget in the 2008-09 year. Whitehorse's Long-Term Financial Plan outlines Council's intention to achieve an operating surplus position by 2009-10. This year's result has delivered an unexpected surplus, however, it needs to be viewed in context with the budgeted deficit for 2007-08 as well as the modest deficit budgeted for 2008-09.

In 2009-10 Council intends to return its Development Reserve to $30 million after borrowing a small amount from the reserve to fund part of the Vermont South Multipurpose Indoor Sports Facility.

It is important to note that Council's long-term financial position is predicated on a rate increase of 6.00% in 2008-09 and an annual rate income of 6% over the remainder of the Long-Term Financial Plan. This is a practical and fiscally responsible policy position taken by Council to ensure that Whitehorse is able to deliver services and capital works that will meet the needs of its diverse community for many years to come.

With these increases, Whitehorse will continue to have one of the lowest levels of rates in metropolitan Victoria, while maintaining high quality services and facilities and addressing the challenges of water restrictions and rising costs associated with drought, maintaining ageing infrastructure and cost shifting from government.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

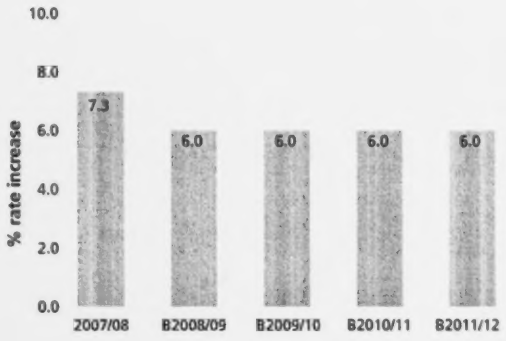
A high level Strategic Resource Plan for the years 2008-09 to 2011-12 has been developed to assist Council in adopting a budget within a prudent longer term financial framework. The key objective of the Plan is financial sustainability in the medium to long term, while still achieving the strategic objectives as outlined in the Council Plan.

The Council Plan ensures steady progress towards achieving the sustainability measures set by the Victorian Auditor General. Council will achieve an operating surplus by the 2009-10 year while placing higher priority on capital works renewal by increasing maintenance on existing infrastructure assets. The plan also focuses on the maintenance of cash reserves and minimisation of debt to fund major capital projects.

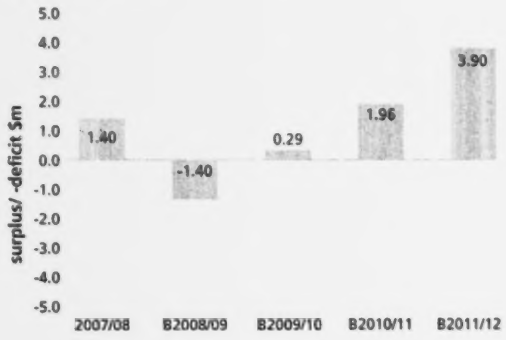
SUPPORTING GRAPHS

The following graphs show Council's Long Term Financial Plan for rates, operating result and capital works expenditure over the next five years.

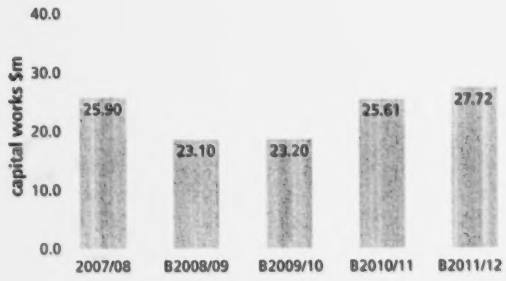
1. Rates



2. Operating Results



3. Capital Works



Financial Indicators 2007-08

	TARGET 2007-08	ACTUAL 2007-08	TARGET 2006-07	ACTUAL 2006-07
Average rates and charges per assessment	$919.04	$919.88	$858.87	$856.92
Average rates and charges per residential assessment	$847.73	$848.89	$794.26	$794.17
Average liabilities per assessment	$396.03	$424.35	$292.51	$353.36
Operating result prior to capital funding	($5,029,000)	($2,821,744)	($8,228,000)	($7,624,000)
Operating result per assessment	($50.31)	$21.02	($87.97)	($72.97)
Average operating expenditure per assessment	$1,805.38	$1,805.72	$1,897.32	$1,770
Average capital expenditure per assessment:	$415.96	$398.92	$403.42	$348.47
Renewal gap	127.86%	103.40%	95.00%	94.00%
Renewal gap and maintenance gap	116.64%	101.99%	97.00%	96.00%

Meeting Our Strategic Objectives

Whitehorse Council has five strategic objectives set out in the Council Plan 2006-2010. Below are examples of how Council met each of these objectives in the 2007-08 financial year.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: PROVIDE RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

STRATEGIES	EXAMPLES OF HOW WE MET THIS OBJECTIVE IN 2007-08
• Continue to engage actively with the community. • Advocate strongly on behalf of the community. • Pursue responsible resource and asset management.	• Achieved an $80 million funding commitment from the Federal Government towards a solution to the traffic and transport issues at the Springvale/ Whitehorse Road intersection and railway line. • Successfully advocated for the State Government's solar feed-in tariff rebate for households and small businesses. • Undertook broad community consultation on a range of Council strategies and plans including the Domestic Animal Management Plan and the Municipal Public Health Plan. • Engaged with the community at a broad range of community events including Spring Festival, Sustainable Living Week, Australia Day concert and Summer Music Series. • Encouraged community participation in events to celebrate 150 years of Local Government in Whitehorse. • Named as one of Victoria's top performing Council's in the 2008 MAV Step audit in relation to the development of Council's Asset Management Practices.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: FOSTER OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

STRATEGIES	EXAMPLES OF HOW WE MET THIS OBJECTIVE IN 2007-08
• Facilitate business development opportunities. • Manage and advocate for infrastructure that supports the City's economic hubs. • Promote economic sustainability.	• Completed the final stage of the Box Hill Mall redevelopment and officially opened the pedestrian upgrade of Bruce Street, Box Hill. Both projects were partly funded by the State Government. • Adopted the Whitehorse Economic Development Strategy 2008-2013. • Updated and revised the Wbiz website to provide local businesses with more information and opportunities to promote themselves. • Successfully conducted Whitehorse's annual Business Week program of events.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: SUPPORT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

STRATEGIES	EXAMPLES OF HOW WE MET THIS OBJECTIVE IN 2007-08
• Plan strategically with other service providers to meet future service needs. • Within budgetary constraints provide people-focused, accessible and affordable services. • Increase opportunities for community participation and interaction.	• Started a major upgrade of the Eley Park Community Centre to accommodate the co-location of The Avenue Neighbourhood House and the Eley Park Community Association. • Began work on the $8.3 million Vermont South Multipurpose Indoor Sports Facility due to open in late 2008. • Began work on a redevelopment of the Civic Centre to enable Council to deliver high-quality services to its residents. • Provided $728,000 in cash grants and more than $250,000 in discounted support to more than 200 community groups through the Community Grants Program.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: CARE FOR OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIES	EXAMPLES OF HOW WE MET THIS OBJECTIVE IN 2007-08
• Implement sustainable practices. • Develop and promote the municipality's open spaces.	• Adopted the Whitehorse Sustainability Strategy 2008-2013 which sets the sustainability agenda for Council and the community for the next five years. • Constructed an innovative stormwater retention system at Bolton Reserve in Box Hill which won both state and national Stormwater Industry Association Awards for Excellence. • Continued to plant warm season grasses at sportsfields as part of the Sustainable Sportsfield program. • Held a successful Sustainable Living Week in April 2008. • Continued the TravelSmart program in conjunction with Box Hill Institute and Box Hill Hospital to promote more sustainable transport choices. • Adopted the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy in November 2007 which sets out the vision of Council and the community regarding open space.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: CREATE SUSTAINABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

STRATEGIES	EXAMPLES OF HOW WE MET THIS OBJECTIVE IN 2007-08
• Strengthen Council's statutory planning framework. • Protect significant environmental and heritage assets. • Implement waste, transport and road safety strategies.	• Adopted the Nunawading/Mega Mile Major Activity Centre and Mitcham Neighbourhood Activity Centre Structure Plan and the Burwood Village Framework Plan. • Successfully completed the first year of optional user-pays kerbside garden organics bin collection service. Currently there are 18,600 households participating in the service resulting in 5200 tonnes of green organics being collected for processing into mulch. • Implemented the Integrated Transport Strategy, Road Safety Strategy and Traffic Management Strategy and conducted road safety programs.

Strategic Indicators 2007-08

Council is required, under the *Local Government Act (1989)*, to identify strategic indicators that will assist Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives in its Council Plan. These indicators are global indicators that reflect broad progress and are not necessarily measures of specific Council actions. The table below reports on the performance of these indicators for the 2007-08 financial year.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	RESULT 2007-08
Provide responsible leadership and governance.	Community satisfaction rating for Council's advocacy and community representation on key local issues.	66[1]
	Community satisfaction rating for Council's engagement in decision making on key local issues.	63[1]
Foster our local economy.	Whitehorse unemployment rate.	4.4%[2]
	Value of building permits issued within the municipality.	$374,056,000[3]
Support our community.	Community satisfaction rating for overall performance in key services areas and responsibilities.	71[1]
	Community satisfaction with quality of life in Whitehorse.	94%[4]
Care for our natural environment.	Implementation of Council's EcoVision Strategy.	Implemented[5]
	Level of greenhouse gas emissions per capita within the municipality.	23.4%[6]
	Level of water consumption per capita within the municipality.	57.5kl [7]
Create sustainable urban environments.	Average capital expenditure per assessment.	$398.92
	Implementation of Council's EcoVision Strategy.	Implemented[5]
	Percentage of total kerbside collected material that is diverted from landfill.	45.8% [8]

Notes:

(1) Indexed Mean. Source: 2007 Annual Community Satisfaction Survey, Department for Victorian Communities.

(2) As at March 2008. Source: http://www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Category/Publications/LabourMarketAnalysis/SmallAreaLabourMarkets-Australia.htm

(3) Totals for 2007/08 Source: http://www.pulse.buildingcommission.com.au/www/html/169-building-industry-statistics.asp.

(4) As at February 2008. Percentage of residents satisfied. Source: 2007 Annual Resident Survey, Whitehorse City Council.

(5) See, for example, reports to Council titled Whitehorse Sustainability Strategy on 21 April 2008, item 10.1.4, Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action on 17 March 2008, item 10.1.7, Sustainable Public Lighting Action Plan on 21 April 2008, item 10.1.5.

(6) Per capita greenhouse gas emissions for Victoria 2007. No data available on a municipality basis. Source: Department of Environment and Heritage – State and Territory Greenhouse Gas Inventories 2006.

(7) Source: Yarra Valley Water – Residential water summary Whitehorse 2007-08.

(8) Period 1/7/2007 – 30/4/2008. Source: Weigh Bridget Dockets at landfill sites and Municipal Recycling Facility

Services We Delivered

Each year the City of Whitehorse provides more than 100 different services and programs to the community in areas that include aged care, leisure and culture, children, family and youth, community development, libraries, parks and open space, community festivals and events, waste and recycling, roads, drains, footpaths and other infrastructure.

This section provides a summary of some of our services (listed alphabetically) in 2007-08. Complete departmental reports begin on page 35.

AGED AND DISABILITY

Services provided: A range of in-home and community based services to frail older persons, people with a disability and their carers including Meals on Wheels, Home Care, Personal Care, Respite Care, Home Cleaning and Maintenance, Transport Services and Social Support Programs and Activities.

Services delivered in 2007-08:

- 122,000 Meals on Wheels were delivered to 1000 residents.
- 123,000 hours of Home Support services including domestic, Personal and Respite Care Services provided to 4150 residents.
- 43,000 hours of Social Support groups and planned activity groups held.
- 4100 hours of Home Cleaning and Maintenance provided to 1150 residents
- 850 people used Council's Transport Services for a range of reasons including shopping and attending medical appointments.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Services provided: A broad range of arts and cultural programs at the Whitehorse Centre and the Box Hill Community Arts Centre; an Artist in Schools program and a broad range of free annual community events including the Spring Festival, Australia Day Concert, Carols by Candlelight and the Summer Music Series concerts.

Services delivered in 2007-08:

- More than 50,000 people attended Council's annual community events including the Spring Festival, Australia Day Concert, Carols by Candlelight and Summer Music Series.
- 4848 people attended courses at the Box Hill Community Arts Centre.
- 12,495 people attended shows in the Whitehorse Professional Theatre and Music season.
- Between 3000 and 3500 people visited Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum.
- Eleven schools participated in the Artist in Schools Program and shared $22,000 in funding.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Services provided: Maternal and child health, family support, immunisation program, centre-based childcare and pre-school enrolments.

Services delivered in 2007-08:

- 32,000 consultations at maternal and child health centres.
- Maternal and child health nurses supported 6400 families, including 2300 new mothers and their babies.
- Care provided for more than 1200 families at Council's childcare centres.
- More than 30,000 infants, school aged children and adults were vaccinated under Council's immunisation program.
- 274 families were assisted through family support programs.

CITY WORKS

Services provided: Maintained sealed local roads, footpaths, kerb and channel, drainage pits, underground drains and shopping centres, street signs, line marking, remove graffiti, street sweeping, clean public barbecues and toilets, empty street litter bins and collect rubbish that has been dumped.

Services delivered in 2007-08:

- Made safe 2084 concrete slabs by removing hazards.
- External contractors made 8064 concrete slabs safe.
- Upgraded 33,435 square metres of footpath including providing new sections and upgrades to existing footpaths.
- Repaired 1249 square metres of pot holes and minor road repairs using 94 tonnes of asphalt.
- Replaced or repaired 8514 signs throughout the City.
- Cleared 2492 storm water drainage pits and 20,427 lineal metres of drains.
- Responded to 2717 drainage requests.
- Responded to 9853 customer requests.
- Issued 114 graffiti removal kits and offered 250 litres of paint to residents and traders to assist in removing graffiti from their properties.
- Every residential street was swept once every three weeks and more often in the heavy leaf falling periods.

CIVIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Services provided: Customer service and accepting account payments at three Customer Service Centres that are open to the community 128 hours each week. Council communicates with residents through Council's monthly newspaper, Whitehorse News, advertisements, an annual calendar, the website and a range of civic and community events.

Services delivered in 2007-08:

- 197,162 people visited Council's website during 2007-08. This equates to about 16,430 visits a month or 3791 visits a week. The most visited pages included tenders, careers at Whitehorse, the community directory, calendar of events, waste and recycling, Whitehorse mapping GIS online, rates downloadable forms, planning and building.
- 12 editions of the Whitehorse News were published and delivered to about 64,000 homes, businesses, schools and community groups each month and the annual Council calendar was produced and delivered in December 2007.
- 923 people received Australian citizenship at eight citizenship ceremonies.
- Customer service staff answered 135,590 telephone calls.
- Customer Service Centres handled approximately 141,000 cashiering transactions made up of 40,000 over the counter receipting transactions and downloading approximately 101,000 payments made through a variety of payment options such as Bpay, the internet and via Australia Post.

PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

Services provided: Strategic land use planning and advice, planning scheme amendments, assessing planning permit applications, and issuing building permits. Council is also responsible for upgrading and maintaining local roads, drains and footpaths and street lighting.

Services delivered in 2007-08:

- Processed more than 1000 planning applications (including amendments).
- Issued 257 building permits.
- Resurfaced and reconstructed 55,000 square metres of local roads.
- Rehabilitated and constructed 820 metres of stormwater drains.
- Placed speed trailers at more than 250 locations throughout the City.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Services Provided: Public library services in Whitehorse are provided by the Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation at four locations in Box Hill, Nunawading, Blackburn and Vermont South. In addition to loaning books, magazines and CDs/ DVDs, the library provides free access to many electronic databases, a Home Library/Outreach Service, Chinese, Greek and Italian language resources, homework support and other programs for young people, study facilities, internet and computer services, author and book talks, weekly storytimes for preschoolers and 24/7 access to library services via www.wev.vic.gov.au

Services delivered in 2007-08:

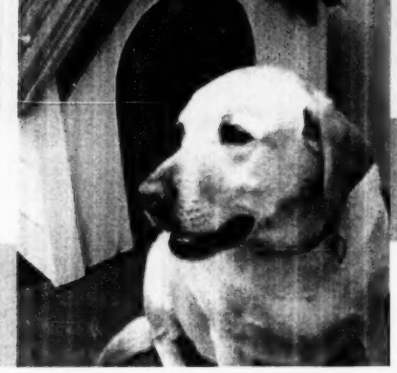
- 1,508,628 items borrowed.
- 827,339 visits to libraries.
- 71, 291 reference enquiries.
- 49, 811 internet bookings.
- 25, 599 children attended programs.
- 7949 new members joined.

TRAFFIC AND LOCAL LAWS

Services Provided: Administer a series of acts, regulations and local laws to help maintain community safety and amenity. These cover animal management, school crossing supervision, parking control, fire prevention and local law administration.

Services delivered in 2007-08:

- 8002 service requests received.
- 23,115 dogs and cats registered.
- 20,496 parking infringement notices issued.
- 338 dogs and 164 cats picked up by Council rangers.
- 19,316 pieces of correspondence responded to.
- 827 warning parking notices issued.
- 31,728 phone calls to Traffic and Local Laws Department answered.
- 2037 Disabled Parking Permits issued.
- 1569 Local Law permits issued.

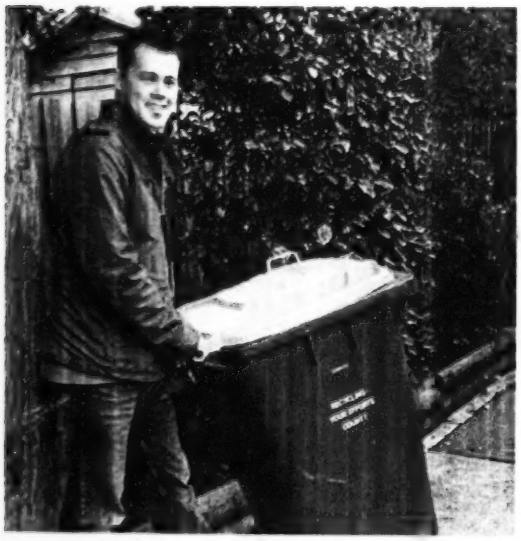


WASTE AND RECYCLING

Services provided: Collections for rubbish, recycling, hard waste and green organics, and operation of Council's Waste Transfer Centre. Council places major emphasis on educating the community on the importance of recycling and protecting the environment for future generations.

Services delivered in 2007-08:

- 45.8% of waste was diverted from landfill compared with 42.9% in 2006-07.
- 26,140 tonnes of domestic garbage was sent to landfill, a decrease of 2,750 tonnes or 9.5% on the 28,890 tonnes of garbage sent to landfill in 2006-07.
- 18,600 households participated in the first year of Council's kerbside garden organics bin collection service resulting in the collection of 5200 tonnes of green organics.
- Collected 19,860 tonnes of recyclable materials made up of 12,235 tonnes of paper, cardboard and liquid paperboard, 4765 tonnes of glass, 2400 tonnes of plastics, 20 tonnes of aluminium and 440 tonnes of steel cans. This was an increase of 5.6% compared to the previous year.
- 4820 mattresses were collected for recycling in the hard waste collection.
- 1000 discount vouchers for various home composting products were sent out under Council's Home Composting Incentive Scheme.



YOUTH SERVICES

Services provided: Youth ConneXions, Council's youth information, support and referral centre offers computer and internet use, employment workshops, recreation programs and counselling.

Services delivered in 2007-08:

- More than 5200 young people accessed services at Youth ConneXions.
- Individual counselling support was provided to more than 1000 young people.
- 17 projects totalling $41,695 were funded in 12 schools under the School Focused Youth Service aimed at building resilience, healthy relationships and increased engagement between young people and their peers, school and the community.
- More than 150 young people participated in Youth Week activities held in June 2008.
- Events to celebrate and highlight special occasions including Refugee Week and Open Mindz as part of Mental Health Week.

Major Projects

VERMONT SOUTH INDOOR SPORTS FACILITY

The 2007-08 year saw significant progress on the building of the $8.3 million Multipurpose Indoor Sports Facility in Hanover Road, Vermont South – which is one of the largest capital works projects Whitehorse Council has undertaken.

Preliminary building works on the facility started in January 2008, the Mayor, Cr John Koutras turned the first sod of soil in April and work has been progressing steadily.

The facility will feature four indoor and four outdoor courts, an occasional childcare centre, multipurpose community room and a cafe with adjoining covered community terrace. When complete it will accommodate a range of sporting groups including netball, basketball, indoor soccer and volleyball.

Council is funding the Multipurpose Indoor Sports Facility over three financial years – 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. Funding for the project includes a $500,000 grant from the State Government.

The design incorporates a number of ecologically sustainable features including the use of low consumption lighting, solar hot water and a rainwater collection system to create an energy efficient building. Other environmentally friendly features of the design include the use of natural lighting for indoor courts, natural ventilation systems and solar glazing to windows to maintain indoor temperatures.

Council has worked closely with Livingstone Primary School, Whitehorse Netball Association, Vermont South Cricket Club, Vermont Junior Football Club, Vermont South Shopping Centre and local residents in the planning phase of the project to ensure there was minimum disruption during construction.

The project is expected to be complete by November 2008.

ELEY PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

A major $1.5 million project to transform the Eley Park Community Centre in Blackburn South into a new community hub is expected to be completed in October 2008.

The upgrade will increase the size of the centre by a third and includes three new multipurpose rooms, an occasional childcare facility and refurbishment of the reception, office and community meeting area.

The hub will accommodate the existing community activities provided at the centre for many years, and also the activities of The Avenue Neighbourhood House which moved into the centre in September 2007 after the lease on the Blackburn premises where it had operated from for many years was not renewed. The redevelopment will make it easier for the two groups to provide the broad range of facilities to the community and will provide more scope for increased community use and participation.

Council consulted with all of the centre user groups during the design of the redevelopment and has worked hard to keep user groups informed during the construction process. Council contributed $1.1m towards the project, the Federal Government $270,465 and the State Government $200,000.

Council appreciates the support of both the Federal and State Governments for providing funding towards the redevelopment which will ensure the Eley Park Community Centre will continue to provide services and programs to the Whitehorse community for many years to come.

SPRINGVALE/WHITEHORSE ROAD INTERSECTION AND RAILWAY LINE

The City of Whitehorse continues to take the lead in a 'whole of government' approach to help find a sustainable solution to the significant traffic and transport delays, congestion and accidents at the Springvale/Whitehorse Road intersection and nearby railway line which has the highest risk assessment ranking for accidents of all the 1872 level crossings in the state.

Whitehorse Council established a working group in 2007 with Federal and State Government Agencies – Department of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development and Local Government (Federal Government), Victorian Department of Transport and VicRoads to undertake a detailed study to look at ways to address traffic and transport problems at the intersection and railway crossing.

The study commenced in April 2007 and was funded as part of a $1.5 million grant from the Federal Government in 2006-07. It involved geotechnical drilling, land use planning opportunities, traffic modelling, research with local business and industry and economic assessment of a range of options. The report has been finalised and will be considered by the Federal Government.

In the lead up to the November 2007 Federal election, the project received a major boost with a funding commitment of $80 million announced by the then Federal Labor Party towards fixing the problem. (The Labor Party took office following the November 2007 election).

It is estimated that a grade separation of the Springvale Road railway crossing will cost between $90 million and $120 million. The Federal Government has committed $80 million to the project and the State Government has indicated it is committed to working on a solution and is now undertaking a business plan for the preferred option which is to be submitted for consideration in the 2009-10 State budget process.

REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CIVIC CENTRE

During 2007-08 Council began work on an extension and refurbishment of the Civic Centre, which involved building a link between the current Municipal Offices, and the Council Chambers. A new building is being constructed to occupy the courtyard between the two existing buildings. The extension will help to ensure Council continues to deliver high-quality services to its residents.

Excavation of the site began in November 2007 with construction of the building's steel framework started in February 2008. Council continued to provide services to the community during the construction and to keep residents informed of any changes to services to avoid confusion and disruption. Council's main Customer Service Centre at Nunawading was relocated to the Willis Room at the front of the building during construction and Council meetings were relocated to the Whitehorse Centre. Disabled access to the Civic Centre remained during construction, with both the ramp and pathway between the Civic Centre and the library remaining open.

The project incorporates a number of environmentally sustainable design measures including a rainwater collection system that will see water re-used for toilet flushing in the Civic Centre and library, use of natural ventilation and lighting and solar hot water heating, incorporating certain materials from the existing Civic Centre into the redeveloped building such as ceiling panels, sunshading, glass facades and automatic doors, and the use of environmentally accredited suppliers where possible.

The project is expected to be completed by October 2008.

150 YEAR CELEBRATION

Council celebrated the 150th anniversary of Local Government in Whitehorse in 2007 with a number of special, events and initiatives.

The year began with residents receiving a 2007 heritage calendar complete with a broad range of historical photos and data to commemorate the milestone. In November 2007, Council produced a gold commemorative souvenir medallion as a lasting memento.

The municipality's 30 state and Catholic primary and secondary schools were each presented with five of the commemorative medallions to award to students as they saw fit. The current Mayor, Councillors and Chief Executive Officer, together with former Mayors and Town Clerks were also presented with medallions at a function to celebrate the 150 years.

Well-known Victorian historian Lesley Alves was appointed by Council to write a history of Whitehorse as part of the 150 year celebrations. The history will cover from Indigenous settlement right through to the present day and will be based on themes established by the Australian Heritage Commission for inclusion in written histories, including business, migration and education. The history is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

Council's 2007 Spring Festival carried a heritage theme by focusing on historical photography and other heritage displays and activities. The event also highlighted Whitehorse's origins as a major apple orchard and farming area and producer of clay products. A new equipment display was launched at Schwerkolt Cottage to mark the 150 year celebration and a series of heritage exhibitions were held at venues across the municipality during the year.

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

The Whitehorse Sustainability Strategy 2008-2013: Our EcoVision was adopted in April 2008 setting Council's sustainability agenda for the next five years. The strategy builds on the programs, projects and work practices implemented since 2002 through Council's original strategy for ecological sustainability, EcoVision. It contains some challenging short, medium and long-term goals to ensure Whitehorse continues to lead by example and engage with the community, businesses and schools to implement practical, achievable and affordable sustainable actions.

Ten priority areas are targeted in the strategy including: climate change, greenhouse and energy, water conservation and water quality, resource efficiency, waste and recycling, sustainable communities and our natural environment.

Council is continuing to improve the sustainability of its own work practices as well as increasingly engage with the community to encourage the adoption of sustainable principles and practices in local households, businesses and community activities.

The community was widely consulted before the draft plan was developed and placed on public exhibition.

Council also adopted a Sustainable Public Lighting Action Plan, in April 2008 which includes actions to change all streetlights to energy efficient lights and to progressively purchase more green power for streetlights and Council facilities.

See page 27 for a full list of Council's sustainability initiatives in 2007-08.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF 2007-08

July 2007

- Councillor Ben Stennett replaced Pauline Richards who resigned from Council in June 2007.
- Residents celebrated National Tree Day by planting 4000 indigenous plants at Bolton Reserve.
- Allocated $728,000 in cash grants and more than $250,000 in discounted support to over 200 community groups through the Community Grants Program.

August 2007

- The 6th annual Whitehorse Business Week was a success, with a range of high profile speakers sharing their business secrets.
- A draft Economic Development Strategy to help guide Whitehorse's $6 billion local economy was placed on exhibition for community feedback.
- A TravelSmart map was launched as part of the TravelSmart project. The map encourages Whitehorse residents to make more informed and sustainable transport choices.

September 2007

- Box Hill Community Arts Centre launched a dedicated new website.
- Applications opened for funding for Council's popular Artists in Schools program for 2008.
- Whitehorse Young Citizens of the Month were recognised by Mayor at an official ceremony.

October 2007

- A "Blackspot" community rally was held at the Springvale Road level crossing in Nunawading to push for funding to fix the Springvale Road/Whitehorse Road/Railway intersections.
- A Whitehorse Business Group delegation travelled to China to explore and develop new business opportunities.
- More than 200 community groups participated in Council's annual Spring Festival.

November 2007

- Council won a prestigious national Stormwater Industry Association award for an innovative water saving project at Bolton Reserve in Box Hill.
- Council adopted a new Open Space Strategy providing a framework for open space planning over the next 15 years.
- The Eastern Region Soccer Strategy to develop soccer in the region was approved.

December 2007

- Councillor John Koutras made history as the first Councillor elected as Mayor of Whitehorse for a second successive term.
- Council's 2008 calendar, celebrating the Centenary of Women's Suffrage was delivered to all homes in Whitehorse.
- Council's annual Carols by Candelight event was attended by thousands of residents.

January 2008

- Winners of the 2008 Whitehorse Australia Day Awards were announced. Cassie Earnshaw and Erin McLoney were named joint Young Citizen of the Year Award.
- Council hosted its annual Australia Day Twilight Concert and fireworks.

February 2008

- Council approved a Development Plan for the $600 million Burwood Square project in Middleborough Road, East Burwood featuring a cinema, shops, cafes, restaurants, offices, parkland and housing.
- Work began on a $175,000 raingarden project at Wurundjeri Walk in Blackburn South that will reduce the amount of pollution flowing into Port Phillip Bay.
- Council's 2008 Summer Music Series concerts began.

March 2008

- Council joined millions of people worldwide for the Earth Hour campaign.
- The Whitehorse Economic Development Strategy 2008-2013 was adopted to help guide Whitehorse's $6 billion local economy over the next five years.
- The Bruce Street revitalisation project in Box Hill was officially opened. The project improves connectivity between the Box Hill CBD, Box Hill Gardens and the Medical Precinct.

April 2008

- Council hosted its second Sustainable Living Week celebration with an expo, sustainable transport challenge and the presentation of sustainability awards.
- Winners were announced for the 2007 Building a Better City Design Awards recognising outstanding design across the municipality.
- Council adopted a plan to guide future development within the Nunawading/MegaMile/Mitcham Activity Centres.

May 2008

- A State Government audit confirmed the Springvale Road level crossing in Nunawading had the highest risk assessment ranking for accidents of all level crossings in Victoria.
- Celebrations held to mark Whitehorse's strong ongoing sister city relationship with Matsudo in Japan.
- Whitehorse volunteers honoured as part of National Volunteer Week celebrations.

June 2008

- Land in Lake Road Blackburn was purchased by Council, and the State and Federal governments to secure the future of the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary.
- Staff at Aqualink Nunawading were rewarded for their part in the rescue and resuscitation of a swimmer at the centre.
- Council endorsed a new Domestic Animal Management Plan to guide the management of dogs and cats in the municipality.
- Whitehorse Council's 2008 Resident Survey revealed high levels of satisfaction with Council's service.

Major Capital Works

The City of Whitehorse completed a record Capital Works program in 2007-08 spending $25.9 million on a broad range of projects. Whitehorse was believed to have one of the highest capital works budgets in the State.

Major projects in progress at June 30, 2008 and scheduled for completion in 2008-09 include:

- The $8.3 million Multipurpose Indoor Sports Facility in Hanover Road, Vermont South.
- The redevelopment of the Whitehorse Civic Centre in Nunawading.
- The $1.5 million redevelopment of the Eley Park Community Centre in Blackburn South.

See page 23 for full details of these major projects.

The following was expended on projects in the 2007-08 Capital Works program:

$9.5 MILLION ON COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND BUILDINGS

Specific projects included:

- $815,000 worth of improvements to Aqualink Nunawading and Aqualink Box Hill.
- $65,000 on refurbishments to the Whitehorse Centre.
- $253,000 on the construction of a heritage equipment museum at Schwerkolt Cottage in Mitcham.
- $889,000 on the redevelopment and upgrade of the clubrooms, bowling rink and car park at Vermont South Club.

$3.2 MILLION ON ROADS, FOOTPATHS AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS

Specific projects included:

- $988,000 on road resurfacing works.
- $443,000 to reconstruct Zetland Road, Mont Albert.
- $229,000 to reconstruct Stanhope Street, Mont Albert.
- $926,000 for footpath reconstruction works.
- $303,000 on various traffic management improvements.

$2.2 MILLION ON PARKS, SPORTSFIELDS AND PLAYGROUNDS

Specific projects included:

- $181,000 on Wurundjeri Walk wetlands in Blackburn South.
- $168,000 for playground improvements.
- $167,000 to plant drought tolerant turf at various locations in Whitehorse.
- $595,000 to widen and resurface the athletics track at Hagenauer Reserve in Box Hill.

$1.5 MILLION WAS ON URBAN IMPROVEMENTS

Specific projects included:

- $964,000 for Box Hill business district.
- $140,000 for Bennettswood Neighbourhood Shopping Centre.
- $153,000 for Mitcham and Nunawading Shopping Centres.

$662,000 DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Specific projects included:

- $108,000 to complete the stormwater retention system in Bolton Reserve, Box Hill.
- $140,000 for the installation of gross pollutant traps.
- $300,000 for various other drainage system improvements.

$346,000 TO REPLACE AND PLANT NEW STREET TREES

Specific projects included:

- Planted more than 600 street trees throughout 23 streets.
- Watered and maintained a total of 1200 trees across the municipality.

Sustainability Initiatives

Sustainability has remained a key focus for Whitehorse during 2007-08. Council has worked hard to incorporate sustainability into our day-to-day operations and to encourage the community to become more sustainable by reducing water, energy and waste consumption.

During the year, Council developed the Whitehorse Sustainability Strategy 2008-2013: Our EcoVision which was formally adopted by Council in April 2008. This strategy sets the sustainability agenda for city for the next five years and includes some challenging targets such as becoming carbon neutral by 2015, reducing water and energy consumption by 25% by 2012, and diverting 65% of municipal waste from landfill by 2014.

During 2007-08, Council provided a number of community initiatives including rebates for residents who install water tanks, solar hot water units or solar panels; workshops on home composting; and Sustainability Street – a program to empower people to get together to learn and share how to make their lives more sustainable.

Council's commitment to sustainability also extended to specialised programs such as Sustainable Living Week, the Travel Smart program and even using recycled asphalt on our roads.

Below is snapshot of the broad range of sustainability initiatives carried out during 2007-08.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Completion of the Box Hill City Oval Stormwater Retention System ($108,000 expended in 2007-08). This water saving project collects and stores up to seven million litres of water a year at Bolton Reserve, Box Hill, for re-use in irrigation, flushing of toilets at Box Hill City Oval and cleaning and watering throughout the City. It has won both national and state Stormwater Industry Association awards.
- $140,000 to install a gross pollutant litter trap in Council's stormwater system.
- $125,000 on a Sustainable Turf Management Program at sports ovals that involved planting drought tolerant warm season grasses.
- $50,000 on the installation of energy-saving devices at various Council buildings
- $100,000 on the installation of water-saving measures in Council buildings, such as rainwater harvesting 'aquaclicks' flow restrictors on all taps and installing dual flush toilets.
- $20,000 on the installation of solar hot water units in Council buildings.
- Used recycled crushed concrete under new footpaths.

WASTE

- Collected 19,860 tonnes of recyclable materials, an increase of 5.6% compared to the previous year. This comprised:12,235 tonnes of paper, cardboard and liquid paperboard, 4765 tonnes of glass, 2400 tonnes of plastics, 20 tonnes of aluminum and 440 tonnes of steel cans.
- Collected and recycled 4820 mattresses from the hard waste collection.
- Successfully diverted more waste from landfill than previous years. The overall diversion rate for 2007-08 was 45.8% compared with 42.9% in 2006-07.
- A total of 26,140 tonnes of domestic garbage was sent to landfill in 2007-08, compared with 28,890 tonnes in 2006-07, a decrease of 2,750 tonnes or 9.5%.
- Continued to implement the Waste Wise program within Council buildings and at Council run events. Council buildings introduced food composting within Civic Centre. Sustainable Living Week received 'gold' status for recycling and collecting food waste during the week.

- Introduced phase two of the Home Composting incentive program, which allowed residents to recycle their food and garden waste within the confines of their property through discounted compost bins, bokashi buckets and worm farms.
- Commenced a new user pays fortnightly kerbside bin collection service for Garden Organics which 18,000 households had taken up by June 2008.

WATER

- Installed rainwater tanks at Bennettswood Bowls Club, Nunawading Tennis Club and Blackburn Bowls Club to assist in the sustainability of tennis court and bowling green surfaces.
- Continued using recycled water on all of Council's newly planted street trees and park plantings.
- Expanded Council's re-mulching program to conserve water.
- Planted 80 native trees at Morack Public Golf Course as part of annual re-planting program.
- Developed a program for high-pressure washing in township centres using recycled water.
- Used recycled water for street sweeping and purchased a drainage jet pressure machine.
- Planted warm season grasses at another five sporting ovals.
- Undertook sustainable landscape upgrades at more than 130 parks and gardens.
- Used a 'soaker', which is a recycled product, to soak up oil and fuel spills, preventing them from washing into the stormwater drainage and river systems.
- International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI) Water Campaign – Council has progressively been implementing water-saving measures in its operations and has almost completed Milestone 4 (out of 5) in this international water program
- Updated Council's Water Action Plan in response to ongoing drought and climate change, with added emphasis on water efficiencies in Council buildings, re-use of stormwater and community incentives to reduce water consumption.

ENERGY

- Installed solar hot water systems and energy efficient fittings at Nunawading Aqualink.
- Installed new energy efficient barbeques at Halliday Park (4 units), Yarran Dheran (4 units) Surrey Drive (2 units) and at Box Hill Gardens (2 units).
- Installed a composting toilet at Morack Public Golf Course, which composts the toilet contents.
- A Sustainable Public Lighting Action Plan was prepared and adopted by Council. Key actions include progressively increasing the amount of green power purchased for street lighting from 15% to 52.5% in 2008/09 and to 100% by 2010, and to carry out a major retrofit of street lighting with energy efficient lights and fittings commencing in 2013.
- Implemented a home maintenance program to assist older and disabled residents to reduce energy costs through the installation of efficient light globes, draught stoppers and information and advice on effective heating and cooling strategies.
- ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection Program, achieved milestone 5 as a result of the energy-saving measures that Council has progressively implemented in recent years.

COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS INITIATIVES

- Distributed biodegradable animal droppings bags for responsible pet owners use.
- Continued to distribute Council's green reusable shopping bags to discourage the use of plastic shopping bags in the Whitehorse community.
- Promoted sustainability themes and messages to the wider community through the Whitehorse News and local media.
- Delivered a business sustainability program during Business Week that provided training in how small business owners can reduce energy and water consumption and waste.
- Continued the partnership with Box Hill Hospital and Box Hill Institute to deliver the TravelSmart and Local Area Access Programs, which encourage staff and students to use sustainable transport and reduce their reliance on cars.
- Encouraged planning and building permit applicants to incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles into their applications.
- Held Sustainable Living Week in April 2008. This featured a series of events aimed at encouraging people to live a more sustainable lifestyle.
- The Sustainability Street Program was expanded from two 'Hubs' (A group of people within a suburb, rather than a street) to three. The program now operates in Box Hill, Blackburn and Vermont South.
- Held community seminars and workshops on topical and important sustainability issues such as grey water use.
- Held displays and demonstrations on sustainable living at major Council events such as Spring Festival.
- Assisted local schools to implement sustainable projects, as part of Council's Sustainable School Program.
- Produced a Sustainable Living Guide giving residents tips on how to live a more sustainable lifestyle.
- Continued to offer rebates for residents who installed water tanks, solar panels or solar hot water units. About 26 solar rebates and 80 water tank rebates were issued by Council in 2007-08.

INTERNAL COUNCIL INITIATIVES

- Implemented Council's Greener Office Program, a key behaviour change program for staff. Initiatives included:
  - The introduction of a 'sustainable office' section in the staff induction process.
  - Encouraging staff to turn individual computer screens off when leaving their workstation.
  - Reducing the amount of printed communications to staff by increasing, improving and encouraging the use of online communications.
- Supported Earth Hour, including the "Earth Hour Council Meeting" held on March 17, 2008 where reduced lighting and solar lamps were used.
- Prepared a Green Travel Plan for Council staff, which included a package of initiatives aiming to reduce their car usage and improve sustainable transport options.
- Incorporated electronic file management systems internally to reduce the amount of paper used.
- Consolidated several Council computer servers into one, resulting in reduced power consumption, reduced heat output, reduced noise, better and more efficient use of equipment.
- Continued the implementation of Council's car fleet policy with an emphasis on reducing the number of six cylinder vehicles, increasing the use of LPG vehicles and the purchase of hybrid cars.

Advocating For The Community

During 2007-08 Council continued to lead major advocacy campaigns to attract government support and funding for improved services and infrastructure, particularly in the lead up to the Federal Election in November 2007. Some of the major campaigns Council has been involved in over the past 12 months are:

WHITEHORSE AND SPRINGVALE ROADS INTERSECTION AND THE RAILWAY LINE

Whitehorse Council has been campaigning for many years to attract government support and funding to find a sustainable solution to the significant traffic and transport delays, congestion and accidents at the Springvale/ Whitehorse Road intersection and nearby railway crossing.

Council has lobbied both federal and state politicians in a bid to gain support from all political parties to address traffic and transport delays at the intersection and railway crossing which has the highest risk assessment ranking for accidents of all the 1872 level crossings in the state.

The first funding commitment came from the Federal Government in July 2006 when a $25 million grant was announced to upgrade the intersection, but this was conditional on the Victorian Government contributing the balance of the project. As part of this funding commitment, $1.5 million was made available to undertake a detailed study to look at ways to address traffic and transport problems at the intersection and railway crossing. This study was started in April 2007 and was finalised in August 2008.

The intersection and crossing was highlighted by the community and the media as a major issue in the lead up to the Federal Election in 2007. Council organised a community rally at the railway crossing in early October 2007 to draw attention to the dangers of the crossing and this received broad media coverage.

Around this time the campaign received a major boost with a funding commitment of $80 million announced by the Federal Government and the then Federal Labor Party towards fixing the problem. (The Labor Party took office following the November 2007 election).

In May 2008, a State Government audit of all 1872 railway level crossings in Victoria confirmed that the Springvale Road level crossing in Nunawading had the highest risk assessment ranking for accidents. The results of the audit came as no surprise to Council or local residents, as the crossing has a long history of problems. Following the release of the audit results the Minister for Public Transport announced that the State Government was committed to working with the Federal Government on a solution and Vic Roads is now undertaking a business plan for the preferred option which is to be submitted for consideration in the 2009-10 State budget process.

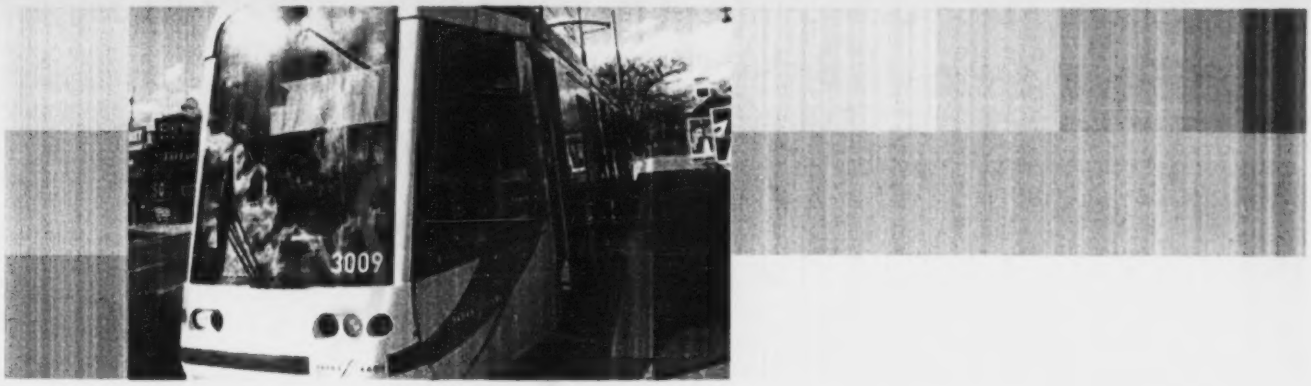
See Major Projects on page 23 for more.

SUSTAINABILITY

Whitehorse needs Federal and State Government support through policy and funding to address key environmental issues including water saving and energy reduction initiatives such as green street lighting, solar energy and environmentally sustainable design.

When Council's draft Sustainable Public Lighting Action Plan was adopted for public exhibition in November 2007, Council resolved to write to both the Federal and State Governments asking for financial assistance for Local Government to change over street lights to energy efficient technology, to purchase Green Power and to explore local renewable energy systems. Council also wrote to the Municipal Association of Victoria asking it to support Council in its call for government funding. Since that time, Council has welcomed the initiative of the State Government in forming a high level Public Lighting Task Force to review these issues.

Council also welcomed advice from the State Government that it had introduced legislation effective from January 1, 2008 which committed the government to ensure that households and small business are paid a fair price for any renewable power that is fed back into the electricity grid from micro generation from wind, solar, hydro and biomass. The news came after Council resolved in October 2007 to write to the Premier and Minister for Energy and Resources urging them to introduce a solar feed-in tariff, in line with their pre election commitment.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Council actively advocates for funding to achieve sustainable and integrated transport services, and to address key issues including public transport capacity, infrastructure, road networks, urban amenity, safety and traffic congestion through its representation on key regional transport groups.

Whitehorse has Councillor representatives on both the Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF), an advocacy group which promotes effective, efficient and equitable transport in metropolitan Melbourne, and the Eastern Transport Coalition (ETC) that has conducted a long-term campaign for improved transport choices through the region.

Whitehorse is one of seven eastern councils represented on the ETC which lobbies on behalf of more than one million residents in the eastern suburbs.

During 2007-08 both the MTF and the ETC actively campaigned for improved public transport services. The ETC surveyed commuters at local railway stations asking what they thought of the current train system and what improvements they thought were needed. They also collected signatures on petitions presented to the government calling for improved public transport services.

The two groups also lobbied the Federal Government calling on it to contribute funding to improve public transport in Victoria. Public transport is currently only funded by State Governments. The Federal Government appears to be seriously considering providing funding for public transport in the future.

BOX HILL TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE UPGRADE

Whitehorse continued its campaign in 2007-08 to secure funding from both the State and Federal Governments to contribute towards the $20 million plus needed to upgrade the Box Hill Transport Interchange — the busiest public transport interchange in Victoria outside the CBD.

Box Hill is a designated Transit City and Activity Centre under Melbourne 2030 and is a key transport hub for educational, medical, retail and commercial facilities including Box Hill Institute, local schools and colleges, Box Hill Public Hospital, Epworth Eastern Private Hospital, medical clinics, Box Hill Centro and the business district.

There is a need to improve the connectedness between the train station, tram and bus services, signage, lighting, shelter, seating and disability access, and the passenger area of the bus interchange. The upgrade would benefit commuters, local retailers and businesses, local hospitals, community services and many people in the eastern suburbs.

The State Planning Minister, during a visit to Box Hill in May 2008, was taken on a tour of the Box Hill Transport Interchange and briefed on why the upgrade was needed.

Council continues to push the need for funding for the project with state and federal politicians when any opportunity arises.

Consulting With Our Community

Consultation is an important means of gathering community feedback. The information assists Council to understand the community's view on proposals, find out how widespread a particular concern is, plan for the future needs of the municipality and make decisions that are fair to the whole community.

During 2007-08 Whitehorse Council consulted with the community through planning consultation forums, interviews, resident surveys, invitations for submissions, committees, public meetings, information nights, direct mail to residents, the provision of drafts and exhibits for public comment, on-site meetings, online surveys and at Special Committee Meetings where residents are given the opportunity to comment on any issue.

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Council uses the results from two major annual surveys to gauge resident satisfaction with its performance, to determine areas for improvement, to assist in preparing its budget and to plan for the future.

The two surveys are the annual Whitehorse Resident Survey conducted on Council's behalf by an independent company, and the State Government's annual Department of Victorian Communities (DVC) survey.

A summary of the results of both surveys are presented below:

2008 ANNUAL WHITEHORSE RESIDENT SURVEY

Council maintained a high standard of community satisfaction in this survey with 90% of residents who responded saying they were satisfied with the overall performance of Council. It was the eighth consecutive survey where Council had received a community satisfaction rating of 90% or more.

Other 2008 survey results revealed that:

- 83% of respondents were satisfied with the value for money they received for their rates.
- 94% were satisfied with their quality of life in Whitehorse.
- 82% believed they received enough information about Council services and activities.
- 73% would speak highly or very highly about Council.
- 51% thought the appearance of the municipality had improved over the past three years.

High satisfaction levels were recorded for Aqualink Box Hill (94%), Aqualink Nunawading (95%), Whitehorse Art Space (97%), Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex (98%) and natural bush areas (91%).

While the survey highlighted many of Council's successes in service delivery, it also revealed a few areas where Council could strengthen the level of community satisfaction. These included areas such as traffic management in residential streets, animal control in public places, planning services, investigation of complaints about building construction and parking enforcement. This information will assist the relevant departments in their future planning.

DEPARTMENT OF VICTORIAN COMMUNITIES (DVC) SURVEY

Council also received positive results in this survey recording the highest result for overall performance against other inner metropolitan councils participating in the survey.

Whitehorse achieved an indexed mean of 71 for community satisfaction for Council's overall performance – the highest result of all inner metropolitan councils including Banyule, Bayside, Boroondara, Darebin, Glen Eira, Hobsons Bay, Kingston, Maroondah, Melbourne, Monash, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Port Phillip, Stonnington and Yarra.

Whitehorse was also above the median result for inner metropolitan councils when it came to advocacy and community representation on key local issues (indexed mean of 66), engagement in decision-making in key local issues (63) and interaction and responsiveness in dealing with the public (78).

This was the 11th DVC survey and Whitehorse has participated each year. Survey data was collected through 350 telephone interviews with random representative samples of residents from each participating Council.

Our Staff

The City of Whitehorse values the contribution of its dedicated and experienced staff in delivering more than 100 different services to 151,000 residents in the community and assisting to manage Council assets valued at approximately $1.7 billion.

Council prides itself on providing a safe and enjoyable working environment and management is committed to ensuring the well being and harmony of all staff to ensure they achieve Council's objectives to the best of their ability.

Council's Enterprise Partnership Agreement is central to its human resource management strategies. The core values and standards of performance required by all staff are set out in the agreement highlighting teamwork, professionalism and a commitment to residents and customers.

Council has 1182 employees or 601 equivalent full-time employees. A feature of the workforce is that approximately 43% live and work within Whitehorse.

STAFF PROFILE

- Full-time: 372 (compared with 398 in 2006/07)
- Part-time: 525 (compared with 541 in 2006/07)
- Casual: 285 (compared with 276 in 2006/07)

In 2007-08 there were 183 vacancies advertised for the organisation, the majority being vacancies from employees leaving the organisation or being promoted. This is a turnover rate of approximately 15%.

LISTENING TO OUR STAFF

Whitehorse staff are consulted in a range of ways including a comprehensive intranet service. The Whitehorse Consultative Committee is an important consultation tool for staff and this committee comprises five staff delegates and five management representatives who oversee industrial issues and provide advice to management on the development of a harmonious, productive and satisfying workplace.

The committee and union representatives completed the negotiation of a new Enterprise Partnership Agreement in September 2006 that provides Council with a constructive employee relations framework. Extensive consultation mechanisms are also in place for Occupational Health and Safety processes.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Council is committed to providing a workplace free of all forms of discrimination, bullying and harassment and aims for equality of opportunity for all employees. Council's policy and practices aim to ensure that there is no discrimination relating to the characteristics listed under the *Equal Opportunity Act (1995)* such as race, colour, sex, marital status, parenthood, physical or mental impairment, age, criminal record, religious or political affiliation. The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity (HR&EO) Committee promotes staff and management awareness of HR&EO issues and procedures. Trained staff contact officers are also available throughout the organisation to provide a first point of confidential contact and information for employees on EO issues.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Council encourages all staff to reach their full potential by pursuing and developing their career and professional interests. A range of formal and informal learning opportunities and development activities are provided and these have been identified in consultation with management and staff through Council's Performance Appraisal and Development Program. These opportunities include:

- Corporate Training – generic training aiming to increase organisational capacity in management and skill development. For example computer skills, team building, conflict management.
- Departmental – specific training to improve and develop departmental or divisional service delivery. For example tailored team building.
- Positional – specific training to perform the duties of the position.
- Seminars/Conferences – attendance at relevant conferences and seminars to assist with professional development.
- Career Development – focusing on long-term career development and career planning. For example study assistance to pursue relevant tertiary courses.

FAMILY FRIENDLY / WORK LIFE BALANCE

The City of Whitehorse strives to be an employer of choice and is committed to assisting employees in managing the balance between work, family and outside interests. In this area Council has introduced and made available a wide range of flexible work practices and family friendly provisions such as:

- The ability to purchase additional annual leave (48/52 provisions).
- Return to work on reduced hours (part-time) after parental leave until children have reached school age.
- Job share arrangements to assist with returning to work on reduced hours after parental leave.
- Ability to use leave entitlements one day per week for an extended period, particularly for phased retirement.
- Ability to work from home.
- Flexible hour arrangements.
- Paid maternity (14 weeks) and paternity (2 weeks) leave.
- Assisting with the cost of childcare for out of hours meetings that employees are required to attend.
- Carer's leave.
- Work-based childcare.

In addition to these initiatives, for the first time this year Council has sought to verify its "Employer of Choice" offerings by participating in the Hewitt – Employer of Choice annual awards process.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OH&S) AND WORKCOVER

The City of Whitehorse continues to ensure that it meets its OH&S obligations. There has been ongoing development and review of Council's Safety Management System to ensure it reflects the organisation's operational requirements.

OH&S consultation occurs at two levels, via the Corporate Consultative Committee and local area meetings. OH&S training is delivered at an organisational and local area level. "Fitness for Work" initiatives, including pre-employment medicals and health surveillance programs, have been implemented and will continue to be developed.

A WorkCover induction program is in place for managers and supervisors to assist with understanding the Workers Compensation system and ensure compliance with the *Accident Compensation Act (1985)*. A series of training programs is being delivered for managers and supervisors to assist with understanding the importance of pro-active early rehabilitation intervention and the role it plays in significantly reducing cost, improving productivity, safety and employee morale.

An improved, comprehensive statistical and analysis WorkCover/Return to Work (RTW) report has been drafted by Council's WorkCover insurer, Cambridge, and will soon be launched. The Risk Management Task Analysis project funded by Cambridge will also assist with identifying alternate RTW duties that are available throughout Council.

OH&S ACHIEVEMENTS

- School crossing supervisors undertook hearing and sight testing.
- Broad brimmed hats were issued to all outdoor compliance staff.
- A comprehensive risk audit was completed for the organisation.
- Capital Works team held OH&S briefing sessions to educate contractors on appropriate OH&S practices and City of Whitehorse Policy.
- In conjunction with WorkSafe Victoria, the Whitehorse Centre theatre's orchestra pit was assessed to determine appropriate sound levels with pit doors open/closed and improvements works have been completed.
- Emergency evacuation procedures reviewed and updated for all arts and cultural facilities.
- Aged and Disability improved training, support and information systems to increase the capability of team members to maintain their safety, identify risks and alert others for problem resolution.
- All childcare centre staff completed anaphylaxis training. This training incorporated the development of allergy program information.

SECTION TWO

Departmental Reports

EXECUTIVE SERVICES DIVISION

CITY DEVELOPMENT

HUMAN SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES

INFRASTRUCTURE

Executive Services Division

CIVIC SERVICES

COMMUNICATIONS

Civic Services

Civic Services in many ways is at the frontline of Council's operations. It is responsible for customer/resident services, as well as the provision of governance advice and procedural matters, Civic Centre amenities services and print room operations. Civic Services also serves the Mayor and Councillors, Executive management and internal staff.

Civic Services operate Council's three Customer Service Centres at Nunawading, Forest Hill and Box Hill. These Centres are open to the community during normal business hours each week and Council can also be contacted after hours through an after hours emergency service.

Staff at these centres are multi-skilled and assist with a range of enquiries related to Council's services. The Customer Service Centres also provide receipting for payments of all Council accounts.

During 2007-08 Council's Customer Service Centres handled approximately 141,000 cashiering transactions comprising 40,000 over the counter receipting transactions and 101,000 payments made through a variety of payment options such as Bpay, the internet and via Australia Post.

Council also operates a Customer Service Call Centre staffed by an experienced team who handle a wide variety of enquires or direct the calls to the relevant Council departments. The Customer Service Call Centre answered 135,590 telephone calls in 2007-08.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Reviewed 11 Freedom of Information requests within statutory guidelines.
- Provided a photocopy and finishing service for many documents in circulation within the organisation and the wider community.
- Hosted eight Citizenship Ceremonies where 923 candidates became Australian citizens.
- Reviewed governance practices, procedures and processes, and implemented change to improve accountability and transparency.
- Fostered international relations in Whitehorse by:
  - Supporting the Whitehorse Matsudo Sister City Relationship through a student exchange arrangement between secondary colleges in Whitehorse and Matsudo. Celebrated Green Tree Day and the 37th anniversary of the Whitehorse-Matsudo Sister City Relationship with a tree planting ceremony and Matsudo Week celebrations in May 2008.
  - Hosted a delegation from the City of Shaoxing, China in September 2007.
- Involvement in the development of the City of Whitehorse Charter of Human Rights.
- Development of a website for Councillors to further support their role.
- Involvement on the Civic Centre redevelopment works steering committee providing input regarding relocation and security systems.
- Ongoing review of Whitehorse's Customer Service Charter and Customer Service Strategy.
- The call centre achieved an 87% service level (calls answered within 20 seconds) and the average delay for the year was 17 seconds.

CHALLENGES

- Taking calls from residents following two severe weather storms during the year, and improving our readiness for future events of this nature.
- Preparing the Council, staff and community for the November 2008 General Council Election.
- Induction of new Councillors post the November 2008 election.
- Relocation of Nunawading Service Centre following completion of redevelopment works.

MOVING FORWARD

- Improve awareness of good customer service and good governance practice through corporate training programs.
- Continue implementing the Best Value Review.

Communications

Whitehorse's Communications Department provides information on Council activities and services to the community, staff and media. The department facilitates advocacy, community engagement and consultation on a range of key services, activities, issues, projects and events.

The Communications Department is responsible for:

- Strategic communications planning.
- Managing media relations.
- Producing Council publications including: the Annual Report; Budget and Rates brochure; Annual Calendar- delivered to all homes in Whitehorse each December; The Whitehorse News, a 16-page monthly tabloid newspaper delivered to all households in the municipality; brochures and other corporate documents as required; Community Directory annually; and a New Residents Kit.
- Managing Council's internet and intranet.
- Civic events.
- Ensuring consistency in Council documents.
- Council advertising.
- Corporate identity.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Further development of Council's website.
- Published and distributed twelve editions of the Whitehorse News, which continues to receive positive feedback from residents saying that the publication kept them well informed or generally informed about Council's activities.
- Wrote and distributed 237 media releases and conducted fortnightly media briefings.
- Prepared a weekly advertisement in the Whitehorse Leader and other advertising in targeted press.
- Produced a colourful and informative calendar featuring City of Whitehorse places of interest in the City of Whitehorse. The 2008 calendar also contained a poster acknowledging and commemorating the 2008 Centenary of Women's Suffrage.
- Managed Council's communication materials for a range of advocacy campaigns including Springvale/Whitehorse Road IntersectAction campaign and the Box Hill Transport Interchange campaign.
- Coordinated communications campaign for the Budget 2008-09.
- Actively promoted Council's major events including Spring Festival, Carols by Candlelight, Australia Day celebrations, Whitehorse Business Week and City of Whitehorse Scholarships.
- Received a Bronze Award from the Australasian Reporting Awards for the 2006-07 City of Whitehorse Annual Report.

CHALLENGES

- Improving Council's website, particularly in the areas of accessibility.
- Communicating effectively with our diverse community.
- Gaining State and Federal Government funding through advocacy campaigns.
- Ensuring all Council publications are delivered on schedule.

MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to improve all Whitehorse publications.
- Update and redevelop Council's website.
- Introduce and implement a Corporate Standards Manual and Communications Style Guide for Council.
- Continue to support major advocacy campaigns.
- Continue the use of 100% recycled paper and environmentally friendly print technology where possible.

City Development

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND BUSINESS SERVICES

ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

URBAN DESIGN

Development Strategy and Business Services

This department comprises four operational units: Statutory Planning, Strategic Planning, Building Services and Business and Economic Development. Each of these units operate under a range of different legislative frameworks. Below is a brief description of the roles of each unit.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Strategic Planning unit provides the strategic direction to support the growth in residential, commercial and industrial development within the City, including the preparation of structure plans and framework plans for activity centre development.

STATUTORY PLANNING

The Statutory Planning unit is responsible for ensuring that development in the municipality complies with relevant planning legislation. Staff in the unit also assess and determine planning applications under the Whitehorse Planning Scheme. This involves daily interaction with the community, through enquiries and notification of planning applications.

BUILDING SERVICES

Council's Building unit is responsible for the assessment and determination of building applications and conducting building inspections. The unit is also responsible for a range of other duties including educating residents on building-related matters and implementing pool safety and smoke detector policies.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Business and Economic Development unit's operations are guided by the Whitehorse Economic Development Strategy, which commits Council to leading, stimulating and facilitating local economic development in partnership with business and community networks. Business and Economic Development staff also support local business growth by: Strategic planning and policy development; Investment and development facilitation; Networking and strategic business partnerships; Business research, information and promotion; and general promotion.

HIGHLIGHTS

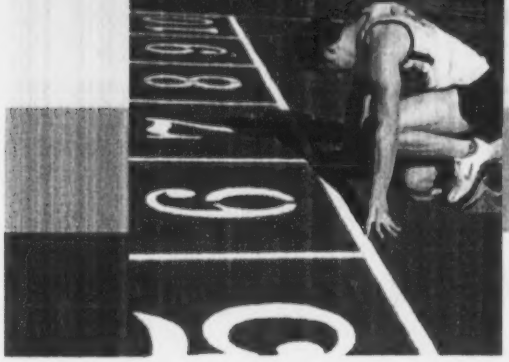
- Adoption of the Nunawading/Mega Mile Major Activity Centre and Mitcham Neighbourhood Activity Centre Structure Plan.
- Adoption of the Burwood Village Framework Plan.
- Adoption of a Student Accommodation Policy.
- Approval of a development plan for the former brickworks site to be known as Burwood Square within the Burwood Heights Activity Centre.
- Introduction of new Significant Landscape Overlay controls and the first Environmental Significance Overlay at the Seventh Day Adventist site in Central Road, Nunawading.
- Continued success at VCAT utilising Council's local policies as contained in the Planning Scheme. This resulted in inappropriate developments refused at key sites.
- Consolidation and creation of the new administration team including the appointment of an Administration Coordinator responsible for delivering a wide range of administrative functions across the department.
- Dealing with more than 1000 planning applications (including amendments), approximately 2000 individual pieces of correspondence and in excess of 10,000 phone enquiries.
- Dealing with an increasing number of building permits, dispensations, inspections including essential services, issuing of building certificates and property information requests.
- Completion of a business plan for the unit to provide a targeted and focused approach to the delivery of building services in the municipality.
- Adoption of the Whitehorse Economic Development Strategy 2008-2013 and adoption of a Special Rate Policy for commercial centres in Whitehorse.
- Reprinting and revision of the Whitehorse Business Kit which details assistance provided by Council, permits that Council issues, information on the Whitehorse Business Group and links to other State and Federal Government business information.
- Providing more information through a revised and updated Wbiz website which lets local business promote their services and have a free listing. The Down to Business quarterly newsletter was redesigned and distributed to all businesses. It now includes case studies of Whitehorse Businesses.
- An increased number of events during Whitehorse Business Week (WBW) including a launch at Nunawading Toyota. WBW attracted an increased level of sponsorship and had an increased level of attendance and continually demonstrates the lead role Council plays in delivering relevant and up-to-date information to business.

CHALLENGES

- Staff development and retention.
- Continuing implementation of Structure Plans.
- Further developing the role of the Box Hill Activity Centre Manager.
- Emphasis on the continuous improvement of processes and procedures and the functioning of the consolidated administration team.
- Continue to provide education to relevant stakeholders on planning and building processes and practices.

MOVING FORWARD

- Introduction of a fast track system for the processing of minor planning applications.
- Deliver a business sustainability program in conjunction with Council's EcoVision team which will provide small businesses with training in practical ways to reduce their energy and water consumption and waste.
- Develop an Industrial Areas Strategy to consider the future requirements of businesses across seven traditionally zoned industrial areas in Whitehorse. The strategy will consider issues such as transport access, infrastructure, land use and future requirements of businesses that will invest in these areas.
- Completion and implementation of the Best Value Review for Strategic Planning.
- Implementation of a business plan and completion of the Best Value review for Building Services.



Engineering and Environmental Services

Council's Engineering and Environmental Services department is responsible for managing the municipality's infrastructure including 734 kilometres of road, 1340 kilometres of footpaths, 824 kilometres of underground drains, nine litter traps and 38 litter baskets and around 10,100 streetlights.

The department also provides a range of services to the community including traffic and transport services, road safety, sustainable transport, strategic asset management, infrastructure design and construction, waste and recycling and coordinating implementation of Council's Whitehorse Sustainability Strategy 2008- 2013: Our EcoVision.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Resurfaced and reconstructed 55,000 square metres of local roads, and rehabilitated and constructed 820 metres of stormwater drains. Roads reconstructed included Zetland Road, Mont Albert and Stanhope Street, Mont Albert. Drainage rehabilitation work included relining the stormwater drain under Box Hill City Oval.
- Won a National Stormwater Industry Association Award for Excellence in November 2007 for the innovative stormwater retention system installed at Bolton Reserve in Box Hill. The system also won a Victorian Stormwater Industry Association award.
- Upgraded Hagenauer Reserve Athletic Track in Box Hill.
- Constructed an innovative raingarden at Wurundjeri Walk in Blackburn South that will significantly reduce the amount of pollution flowing into Port Phillip Bay. The raingarden acts as a natural filter for stormwater by using a combination of soil and plants to purify the water before it reaches the bay.
- Continued to deliver TravelSmart and Local Area Access Programs in Box Hill and Burwood which encourage staff and students to use sustainable transport and reduce reliance on cars.
- Prepared a Green Travel Plan which is a package of initiatives that aim to reduce car usage and improve sustainable transport options available to staff, customers and visitors. It incorporates a range of measures that address different transport journeys including commuter journeys, customer access, business travel and fleet management.
- Developed, designed and installed traffic treatments in Quarry Road, Mitcham, Woodleigh Crescent, Vermont South and Station Street/Rooks Road intersection in Nunawading to address traffic speeding and volume issues.
- Implemented the Integrated Transport Strategy, Road Safety Strategy and Traffic Management Strategy and conducted road safety programs. Programs delivered included:
  - "Wiser Driver" and other programs for older drivers.
  - School based activities - the "Walking School Bus", "Bike Ed" and the "Safe Routes to Schools" programs.
  - "Starting Out Safely" training for child carers, kindergarten teachers, maternal and child health nurses, and family day carers.
  - "Not So Fast" program which included placement of Council's six speed observation trailers in over 250 locations throughout the City.
- Participated in the Bus Services Review conducted by the Department of Transport in the municipalities of Whitehorse, Monash and Manningham.
- Receiving notification of the Federal Government's $80 million funding commitment to help find a sustainable solution to the significant traffic and transport delays, congestion and accidents at the Springvale/Whitehorse Road intersection and nearby railway line.
- Developing a detailed study to look at ways to address traffic and transport problems at the Springvale/ Whitehorse Road intersection and railway crossing in partnership with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development and Local Government (Federal Government), VicRoads and the Department of Transport.
- Significant involvement in the EastLink Project through liaison with ConnectEast and SEITA, community advocacy, addressing traffic and amenity impacts, assessing temporary traffic management plans and detailed construction plans and hand-back of Council assets.
- A Sustainable Public Lighting Action Plan was prepared and adopted by Council.
- Planned and implemented a successful Sustainable Living Week, which was held from April 13-20, 2008. The week informed, involved and encouraged the community to become more sustainable. Highlights of the week included a tour of sustainable open houses, tours to the Visy Recycling Centre, tours of Council's nursery and rain-garden, a Transport Challenge, Sustainability Awards, and the Sustainable Living Expo.

- Supported and promoted Earth Hour on March 29, 2008 by turning off lights at the Civic Centre and Box Hill Town Hall. The March 2008 Council meeting was conducted in half-light as a symbolic gesture of support for Earth Hour.
- Facilitated the Sustainability Street community program involving more than120 residents in a series of interactive training sessions on how to live more sustainably.
- Adopted the Whitehorse Sustainability Strategy 2008-2013: Our EcoVision by Council in April 2008. See page 24 for more on this.
- Supported 18 schools in Whitehorse with grants to assist sustainable programs they are operating.
- Continued a home composting incentive program, partnering with two businesses and sending out 1000 discount vouchers for various home composting products of which 346 have been redeemed to date.
- Successfully completed first year of optional user-pays kerbside garden organics bin collection service. Currently there are 18,600 households participating in the service resulting in 5200 tonnes of green organics being collected for processing into mulch.
- Collected 19,860 tonnes of recyclable materials, an increase of 5.6% compared to the previous year. This comprised 12,235 tonnes of paper, cardboard and liquid paperboard, 4765 tonnes of glass, 2400 tonnes of plastics, 20 tonnes of aluminium and 440 tonnes of steel cans. A total of 4820 mattresses were also collected and recycled from the hard waste collection.
- Diverted more waste from landfill than previous years. There was an overall diversion rate of 45.8% for 2007-08 compared with 42.9% in 2006-07. A total of 26,140 tonnes of domestic garbage was sent to landfill in 2007-08, compared with 28,890 tonnes in 2006-07, a decrease of 2,750 tonnes or 9.5%.

CHALLENGE

- Implementing the Whitehorse Sustainability Strategy 2008-2013: Our EcoVision which has a major focus on encouraging Council and the community to be more sustainable. Some actions include starting a Community Ambassadors Program, Community Forum and Sustainable Schools program.

MOVING FORWARD

- Finalise a detailed study to look at ways to address traffic and transport problems at the Springvale/Whitehorse Road intersection and railway crossing.
- Increase green power purchased for street lighting to 52.5%. This is a key action for Council to become Carbon Neutral by 2015.
- Revise Council's Water Action Plan and Energy Action Plan.

Urban Design

This department is responsible for the design and construction of urban spaces focusing on city revitalisation, upgrading shopping centres and commercial streetscapes, and the development of play spaces. It consults with Council and the community on urban design including broader strategic planning, design matters, master planning and city development.

During 2007-08 more than $1.5 million was spent on upgrading five play spaces and five shopping centres in the municipality. A study into play spaces was undertaken to learn how Council could provide quality childhood development opportunities through these spaces.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Completed the final stage of the Box Hill Mall redevelopment. This project was partly funded by the State Government.
- Completed and officially opened the pedestrian upgrade of Bruce Street, Box Hill. This project was partly funded by the State Government.
- Completed the Box Hill Laneways revitalisation feasibility study.
- Completed a continuation of works in the Mega Mile Precinct in Nunawading.
- Completed Stage one of streetscape works at Bennettswood Shopping Centre.
- Completed Stage one of streetscape works at Wattle Park Shopping Centre.
- Continued to improve festive installations, focusing on the three gateways to Whitehorse.
- Upgraded five playgrounds throughout the city.
- Successfully ran the 10th annual Building a Better City Design Awards.

CHALLENGES

- Integrating universal design (access-for-all) principles into projects to cater for unlimited access, irrespective of limitations and abilities.
- Integrating sustainability principles and creative outcomes into project design and construction.
- Continuing to provide quality built outcomes in public environments.

MOVING FORWARD

- Implement activities and events from the Box Hill Laneways revitalisation study.
- Undertake work in the forecourt of the Civic Centre redevelopment and in the atrium art space.
- Construct the Victoria Rose Sensory Play Space garden in Box Hill.
- Implementation of the 11th annual Building a Better City Design Awards.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHT – BOX HILL MALL

The completion of the Box Hill Mall transformation project has provided Box Hill with a vibrant, safe and pedestrian-friendly urban space that promotes sustainable transport, and economic and retail activities in the heart of Box Hill. The mall encourages outdoor activities and has resulted in a reduction in crime within the precinct. The development and implementation of the project was undertaken over a five year period and construction was carried out across four stages with the final stage completed in late 2007. The improvements were recognised with Council being awarded the Urban Design Award for Planning Excellence from the Planning Institute of Australia.

Human Services

AGED AND DISABILITY SERVICES

ARTS AND CULTURAL SERVICES

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

LEISURE FACILITIES

PARKS PLANNING AND RECREATION.

Aged and Disability Services

Aged and Disability Services provide a range of in-home and community based services to frail older people and people with a disability and their carers. Services include home care, personal care, respite care, home maintenance and social support programs and activities.

During 2007-08 more than 4500 residents accessed Council's support services helping them to participate in community life and continue living independently.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Restructuring Council's in-home support services to strengthen the focus on customer service, improved response times, and provision of quality information and advice to residents requiring support. The new structure also improves the support to team members providing direct care in the community and provides easier access for residents requiring case management, assessment and review of their needs.
- A focus on building new networks and strengthening established alliances with agencies, planners and providers of services to our older community members. These opportunities to share knowledge and resources improve outcomes for the community and ensure service gaps and opportunities are addressed to enhance support options and choices.
- The successful introduction of special events and celebrations involving Council's social support and food services programs. These events informed residents about Council's range of services and brought older members of the community together to share and celebrate. The events included Heart Week, International Day of Disability and the Planned Activity Group Big Day Out.
- Introduction of new and enhanced services to support the implementation of the Planning to Age Well in Whitehorse report. This included the introduction of the Fab Movers program and the purchase of new community transport vehicles to enable older and disabled persons to access services across the municipality.

CHALLENGES

- Attracting and retaining carers to work in aged services. This is being addressed through participation in internal and external workforce planning groups and the development of new models for care options.
- Continuing work with strategic alliances to address current and future demand for services and the consideration of new models for delivery of proactive client and community outcomes.
- Identifying planning and service delivery issues as a result of increased food, petrol and other prices, and the impact these increases have on people maintaining their quality of life.

MOVING FORWARD

- A continued focus on the actions recommended in the Planning to Age Well in Whitehorse: Positive Ageing Strategy 2006-2011.
- Development and implementation of an action plan to support continuous improvement in the delivery of service outcomes to the community.
- Continued efforts to attract skilled and passionate people to work in the aged care sector and to deliver Council's broad range of services.
- Increased participation in, and development of, strategic network alliances and planning frameworks to ensure effective planning for current and future community needs.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHT – DIRECT2CARE

The City of Whitehorse hosted the launch of the new statewide service "Direct2Care". As part of the launch, the Federal Minister for Ageing and the State Minister for Senior Victorians toured Council's Food Services production kitchen and served some of the 650 meals being prepared that day.

Arts and Culture

In 2007-08 Whitehorse's Arts and Cultural Services Department supported a dynamic range of arts and cultural programs, events and services. Among other things, it managed some of Whitehorse's landmark cultural facilities including the Box Hill Town Hall's new community hub and Art Space, the historic Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum, the colourful and unique Box Hill Community Arts Centre and the Whitehorse Centre which is renowned for its professional theatre and music seasons. All of these venues provided excellent opportunities for residents to enjoy art and culture in Whitehorse throughout the year.

The team presented the popular Spring Festival, Australia Day Concert and Fireworks, Carols by Candlelight, the Summer Music Series and other exciting outdoor community activities.

It also managed the City of Whitehorse Art Collection which has long been regarded as one of Australia's leading civic art collections. There are more than 1000 works in the collection, including paintings and drawings by the Box Hill Camp artists Tom Roberts, Frederick McCubbin and Arthur Streeton as well as leading contemporary artists Inge King, Jon Cattapan, Gordon Bennett and Tony Lloyd.

In 2007-08 the Arts and Cultural Services department also oversaw all catering and hospitality services for Council's Civic Suite, as well as administered bookings for community halls, managed community-based markets, responded to film requests, and coordinated Council's public art and heritage program.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- The building and official opening in October 2007 of the equipment shed at Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum in Mitcham.
- Completed the relocation of the Box Hill War Memorials to a landscaped commemorative site at Box Hill Gardens.
- A calendar of events celebrating the Centenary of Women's Suffrage.
- The Whitehorse Centre's 21st birthday celebrations.
- Launch of the Box Hill Community Arts Centre website (www.bhcac.com.au).
- The steady increase in the number of visitors to the Box Hill Community Arts Centre. Average numbers have increased from 20 to more than 40 visitors a day, with many large group visits including 1000 in one day during the Japan Festival.
- Celebration of national community events such as Refugee Day, Biggest Morning Tea, Harmony Day and Reconciliation Week.
- Successful program of major Council events which attracted approximately 50,000 people.
- Box Hill Community Art Centre Biennial Art Competition "Water, Water Everywhere" which attracted 70 entrants.
- Increase in room hire levels at the Box Hill Town Hall following the completion of the redevelopment.

CHALLENGES

- To continue growing the business of the Whitehorse Centre over the next 12 months and remain competitive.
- Encourage school visits to the Box Hill Town Hall Art Space.

MOVING FORWARD

- Develop the theatre and function businesses at the Whitehorse Centre.
- Complete the history of Whitehorse publication that celebrates 150 years of Local Government in Whitehorse.
- Manage the increased popularity and patronage of our cultural facilities, some of which are nearing optimum usage levels.
- Develop a 'Friends of the Art Space' volunteer group to assist in keeping the Whitehorse Art Space open and accessible to all.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHT – THE WHITEHORSE CENTRE

The Whitehorse Centre created a first by presenting an Auslan signed performance for the popular children's show *Possum Magic*. Council is considering presenting further Auslan performances for the hearing impaired community in 2008-09.

Community Development

The Community Development Department provides a range of initiatives to improve the wellbeing, social connectedness, capacity and strength of the Whitehorse community. The department is involved in social research, community profiling, policy development, strategic planning, capacity building, community strengthening, health promotion and other specific projects with an emphasis on working in partnership to develop our community.

Key areas of focus include the Municipal Public Health Plan, the Positive Ageing Strategy, the Disability Policy and Action Plan, the Diversity Policy and Action Plan, community grants, Neighbourhood and Community Houses, Whitehorse Emergency Relief Network, senior citizens centres, social housing, responsible gaming, drug and alcohol issues, working with people with a disability, coordination of volunteers and civic participation, aboriginal reconciliation, working with diverse and multicultural communities and community safety.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Organised a Women's Forum in September 2008 to celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage. The forum was held in conjunction with Heritage Week celebrations and displays at the Box Hill Town Hall.
- Coordinated a number of successful and highly attended community events including Seniors Festival, Harmony Day, Volunteer recognition function, Refugee Festival, and an Interfaith forum.
- Provided $728,000 in cash grants and more than $250,000 in discounted support to over 200 community groups through the Community Grants Program.
- Developed three major plans: the Whitehorse Municipal Public Health Plan, the Whitehorse Disability Policy and Action Plan and the Whitehorse Diversity Policy and Action Plan.
- Completed the Whitehorse Community Profile based on the 2006 Census data.
- Commenced the redevelopment of the Eley Park Community Centre.
- Obtained grants totalling $470,000 for the redevelopment of the Eley Park Community Centre including $250,000 from Federal Department of Regional Services, a $20,000 Federal Water Grant, $100,000 from the State Government Community Support Fund and $100,000 from the State Government's Modernising Neighbourhood House program.
- Resourced and supported the Disability Advisory Committee and the Interfaith Network.
- Commenced implementing the Aboriginal Reconciliation Policy 2007-2010.

CHALLENGES

- Relocation of the Avenue Neighbourhood House into shared temporary office accommodation at the Eley Park Community Centre with the Eley Park Community Association, while redevelopment was undertaken.
- Further strengthening collaborative working relationships across the municipality.
- Actively engaging the local community to build capacity, strengthen the community and work towards enhancing health and wellbeing outcomes.

MOVING FORWARD

- Develop a strategy for volunteering and civic participation.
- Develop the Victoria Rose Reserve Sensory Experience in Box Hill.
- Develop an Affordable Housing Policy.
- Develop a framework to enhance community engagement and social connectedness across Whitehorse.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHT - YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ACCESS PROJECT

The Community Development Department developed and implemented the successful Whitehorse's Youth Employment Access Project (YEAP) to help young migrants and refugees with job seeking skills, confidence and employment opportunities. In 2007-08 YEAP helped 10 young people aged 15-19 years from Africa and Burma. The six month program was run in partnership with the Adult Migrant Education Service and in consultation with the local culturally and linguistically diverse community, as well as members of a reference group from a variety of local youth, employment and migrant service providers.

Health and Family Services

Whitehorse's Health and Family Services offers a broad range of social support services to children, youth and families, as well as public health services to all residents in Whitehorse. Services include the provision of 294 centre-based and 215 family day care-based childcare places for the community, six (maternal and child health) family centres that cater for more than 6000 families per year, numerous youth programs that attract more than 3000 young people, eight monthly immunisation clinics and a number of other public health services.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Provided support for more than 5200 casual contacts and 1000 individual support clients through Council's Youth Connexions support and referral centre in Box Hill.
- Conducted Refugee Week activities in June 2008 including an art competition, films, music and a young people's party.
- The Open Mindz forum was organised in October 2007 by Council's Youth Representative Committee to highlight Mental Health Week. Activities included guest speakers, workshops and music.
- Youth Week activities were held in June 2008 at the Box Hill Mall. They were jointly planned and implemented by Youth Services and Victoria Police. Activities included jewellery making, DJ, hip-hop dancing, circus skills and food.
- $41,695 in projects were funded under the State Government's School Focused Youth Service program which is auspiced by Council. A total of 17 projects were funded in 12 schools. The projects focused on building resilience, healthy relationships and increased engagement with peers, school and the community.
- Council's Maternal and Child Health team supported more than 6400 families during the year, including 2300 new mothers and their babies. The service continues to be extremely well-utilised by families with a total of 32,000 consultations provided in 2007-08.
- The provision of high quality childcare and education for more than 1200 families through Council's childcare services
- Council provided support for more than 100 Commonwealth funded childcare services over the past year. This support enabled more than 135 families with special needs children in the community to be able to participate in these important community support programs.
- Council's health team carried out more than 2100 food safety assessments across 785 food premises during the year. These assessments included the hygiene rating assessments of 595 medium to high intensity food businesses in the municipality. Hygiene star rating certificates were issued to each of these premises.
- The provision of more than 30,000 vaccinations to infants, school aged children and adults during the year.
- Completed more than 180 health safety assessments across all Health Registered businesses in the municipality. These businesses included hairdressing and beauty salons, businesses involved in skin penetration (ear piercing and tattooist) and accommodation premises.
- Achieved high results in the Annual Resident Survey for all Health and Family Service Programs.

CHALLENGES

- To secure adequate resources to implement the relevant changes resulting from the State Government's review of the Children's Services Regulations.
- Continued lack of state and federal funding for youth programs in the eastern region, particularly in working with new refugee young people and overseas students.
- The reduction in the number of people in the tertiary system considering childcare, education and nursing as a career. This has placed pressure on filling key vacancies within Council throughout the year.
- Increasing maintenance costs for ageing kindergarten infrastructure.
- Maintaining the high level of service provision for an increasing number of young children being born in the community.

MOVING FORWARD

- Develop the next Youth Plan for 2009-11. A reference group has been established and community consultations will take place in October and November 2008. The report is expected to be presented to Council in 2009.
- Further development of the next Municipal Early Years Plan 2009-11 which will set the strategic direction and activity of Council and the community in supporting families with children aged 0 to 12 years. The plan will include a strategic review of all infrastructure servicing the needs of families and for the first time consider Council becoming a signatory to the UNICEF convention on Building a Child-Friendly City.
- Development of the "And Baby Makes Three" project in conjunction with the Whitehorse Community Health Centre aimed at reducing domestic violence in the community.
- Completion of the strategic review of Council's Centre-based Childcare program.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHT – SUPPORTING CHILDREN AGED 0-6 YEARS

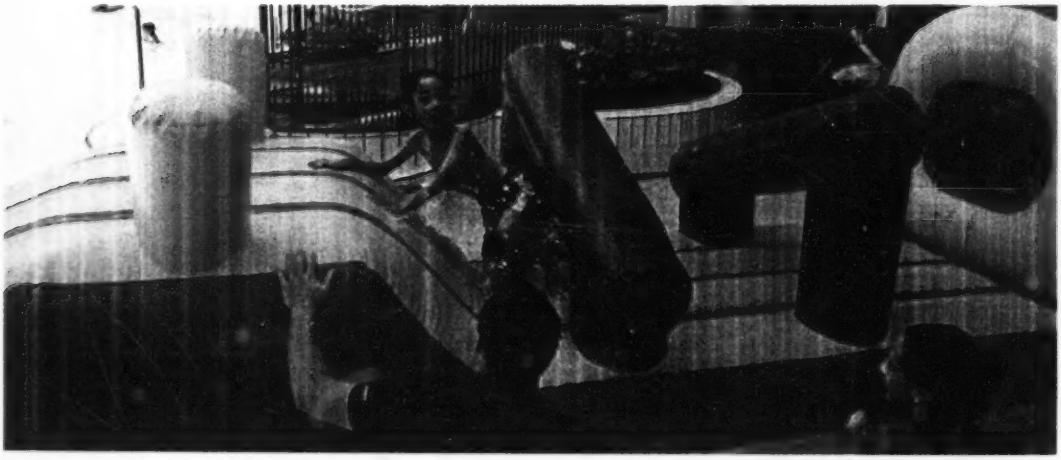
The Health and Family Services Department continues to deliver high quality support services to the growing number of families in the municipality with children aged between 0 to 6 years. The state, and in particular Whitehorse Council, has witnessed a significant increase in births over the past four years with 2007-08 being no exception.

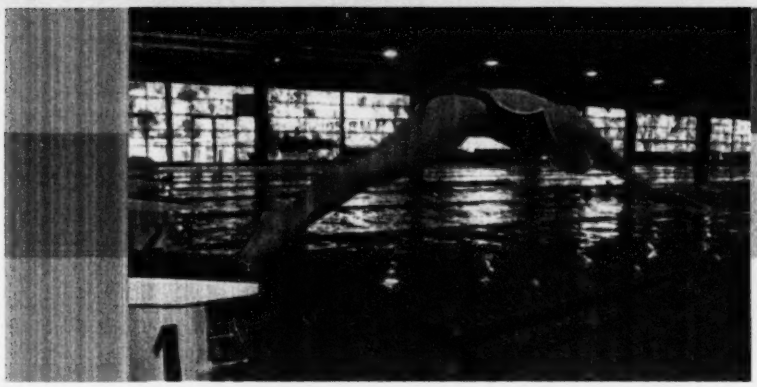
Leisure Facilities

The Leisure Facilities team provides leisure and recreational activities for the Whitehorse community and manages four major facilities – Aqualink Nunawading, Aqualink Box Hill, Morack Public Golf Course and Nunawading Community Centre. Each of these facilities provides Whitehorse residents with a broad range of opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Aqualink Box Hill won the 2007 Leader Community Newspaper Award for the Best Fitness, Health and Well Being Facility.
- Redevelopment of the reception counter and office areas at Aqualink Nunawading to improve customer service. This included the installation of electronic control gates and a member express entry.
- Other capital works improvements at Aqualink Nunawading included additions to the security system, replacement of cardio and other equipment in the gym, installation of permanent seating at the leisure pool, replacement of the disabled hoist and a review of car parking facilities.
- Capital works improvements at Aqualink Box Hill included upgrading the dry change rooms, outdoor pool plant, spinning room and relocation of the gym entry door.
- A fund raising recipe book called Recipes to Die(t) for was launched by members of the Fab Living program at Aqualink Box Hill. Fab Living is a health and wellness program aimed at older adults and boasts over 300 participants.
- The first Annual Morack Golf Challenge was held in November 2007 with 48 players participating.
- Completion of an audit of all turf surfaces at the Morack Public Golf Course in November 2007. The report revealed that the course overall was in good condition, particularly considering the impact that many courses have felt with consecutive years of drought.
- Designed and implemented a new website to market the Morack Public Golf Course, www.morackgolf.com.au
- Introduced a new marketing strategy to profile activities at Nunawading Community Centre. A promotional booklet was distributed quarterly to around 4000 households in the Nunawading/Forest Hill/Blackburn areas and has resulted in increased patronage for the Centre.
- Increased the Adult Tennis Coaching at Nunawading Community Centre from two to four classes per week. There are 244 members playing tennis at the Centre regularly in 2007-08 and more than 375 children and adults participating in coaching programs and competitions on a weekly basis.
- Conducted the annual Centre for Environment and Recreational Management Performance Indicator reviews of Council's four leisure facilities as part of the best value review and facility business planning process.





CHALLENGES

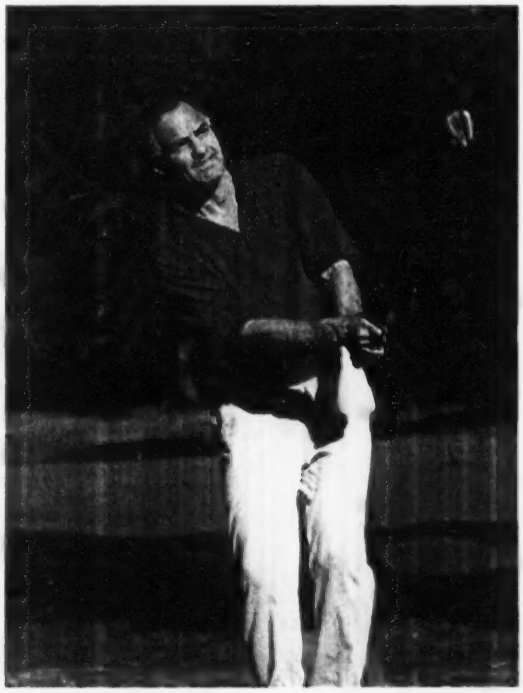
- Maintaining centre memberships and attendances at Aqualink Box Hill in light of increasing customer expectations, emerging competitors and ageing infrastructure.
- Maintaining regular aqua aerobic classes and meeting customer demand at Aqualink Box Hill and Aqualink Nunawading due to a shortage of qualified aqua aerobic instructors within the leisure industry.
- Providing an adequate level of security to protect Morack Public Golf Course from vandalism of turf areas and buildings, following a series of attacks in June 2008.

MOVING FORWARD

- Complete the Nunawading Community Centre detailed design project once the solution to the problems at the Springvale/Whitehorse Road intersection and railway line is finalised.
- Undertake the community consultation phase of the Aqualink Box Hill Redevelopment Feasibility to obtain feedback on the proposed concept design. A final report will be presented to Council in early 2009.
- Install an ultraviolet treatment system at Aqualink Nunawading to enhance water quality in the spa.
- Install a backwash treatment and irrigation system at Aqualink Nunawading to capture and treat up to 6,700 kilolitres of backwash water per year to irrigate Forest Hill Reserve which is next door to the centre.
- Implement a comprehensive school holiday program at Nunawading Community Centre utilising the stadium and tennis court facilities.
- Undertake re-alignment of the seventeenth fairway and construction of a new tee on the 4th and 17th holes at Morack Public Golf Course.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHT – AQUALINK NUNAWADING STAFF RECOGNISED

Aqualink Nunawading staff were officially recognised for their part in the rescue and resuscitation of a swimmer who had become unconscious in the centre pool and whose heart had stopped beating. During the incident on February 19, 2008 Aqualink staff followed emergency procedures and continued working to revive the unconscious man until emergency services arrived. Once on the scene emergency services successfully restarted the swimmer's heart before he was rushed to hospital. In recognition of their outstanding efforts, Whitehorse Council Chief Executive Noelene Duff presented certificates of recognition to the staff involved in the rescue of the swimmer who has since made a good recovery.



Parks Planning and Recreation Unit

Whitehorse has a significant and diverse physical heritage that includes bushland, waterways, regional parks and gardens. The Parks Planning and Recreation Unit manages the planning and policy for parks and open space in Whitehorse, as well as recreation resources throughout the municipality. This includes being involved in the administration and facilitation of Parks Advisory Committees and clubs and organisations involved in the provision of sport and recreation.

There are approximately 335 Open Space Areas in Whitehorse (690 hectares), which represents approximately 10.7 per cent of the municipality. Approximately 590 hectares of this land is owned and managed by Council including 60 sporting fields, 172 playgrounds and about 30 kilometres of off-road trails. The City of Whitehorse also has approximately 250 sports and recreation clubs that present residents with a range of leisure opportunities.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Adoption in November 2007 of the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy which sets out the vision of Council and the community regarding open space.
- Adoption of the Eastern Region Soccer Strategy in November 2007. This strategy provides a strategic approach for the future provision of soccer facilities in the eastern region including the Cities of Whitehorse, Manningham, Boroondara, Monash, Maroondah and Knox. Other partners involved are the Football Federation Victoria and Sport and Recreation Victoria.
- Completion of the Gardiners Creek Local History Park Concept Plan to guide future development of the Local History Park section of the Gardiners Creek Reserve in Burwood.
- Preparation of a Concept Plan for Charles Rooks Reserve and Dagola Reserve, Nunawading. This plan will guide the future planning and development of this area.
- Development of concept designs to upgrade various entrances to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. The design involves branded entry markers to highlight the entrances, as well as vegetation and fencing upgrades.
- Planning and design of a future pedestrian bridge at Furness Park, Blackburn.
- Official opening of the Morton Park Pavilion Junior Change Rooms in August 2007.
- Development of a building concept in consultation with the local community to replace the old sheds and toilet facility at Simpson Park in Mitcham.
- A Community Bike Ride, instigated by the Bicycle Advisory Committee and held in October 2007, complemented Council's annual Spring Festival. The aim of the Community Bike Ride was to inform participants of the cycling facilities available in Whitehorse.
- Approximately 100 sporting stakeholders attended the annual Whitehorse Sports Awards Presentation in October 2007. The sports awards recognise and appreciate the valuable work undertaken by members of Whitehorse sporting clubs.
- Completion of the new Council booklet Our Bushlands which contains information on all of Council's bushland parks and lists the types of vegetation, recreation opportunities, associated community groups, history and how to get to the parks.

- Development of guidelines to assist community groups and sporting clubs prepare proposals for water tanks on their sites. In 2007-08 water tank installations were approved at Blackburn Bowls Club, Bennettswood Bowls Club and Nunawading Tennis Club.
- Funding for three projects through the Drought Relief for Community Sport and Recreation Program 2008. A $10,000 grant was secured towards replacing the existing filtered water line for the outdoor pool at Aqualink Box Hill, $13,243 was received to install 47,000 litre water tanks at Blackburn Tennis Club, and a $40,000 grant was received towards the conversion of two en-tous-cas tennis courts to an eight rink synthetic bowling green at the Vermont South Club.
- The Victorian Little Athletics Association (VLAA) hosted the Australian Little Athletics Championships (ALAC) at the Bill Sewart Athletics Track in April 2008.
- Removed and replaced the existing synthetic surface at Hagenauer Reserve Athletic Track in Box Hill with a new synthetic surface.
- Construction of a rain garden in Wurundjeri Walk in Blackburn South in consultation with the Wurundjeri Walk Parkland Advisory Committee. This project was undertaken in conjunction with Melbourne Water and with financial assistance from the Australian Government water fund.
- Installation of signs providing guidelines for shared use paths across Whitehorse. The signs also have a map showing local landmarks.
- Completion of seasonal booking allocations for the 2007 winter season which involved allocating 39 clubs, 49 sportsfields and 29 pavilions.
- Completion of seasonal booking allocations for the 2007-08 summer season which involved allocating 33 clubs, 48 sportsfields and 31 pavilions.
- The total number of casual sportsfield bookings taken for 2007-08 was 133.

CHALLENGES

- Managing the sustainability and use of sportsfields under the ongoing drought conditions.
- Implementation of the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy.
- Managing water saving initiative requests from community groups, for example water tanks.
- Managing open space issues associated with new developments.

MOVING FORWARD

- Complete the development of the draft Sparks Reserve / Wembley Park Precinct Concept Plan.
- Commence the review of the Box Hill Gardens Master Plan.
- Undertake a plan for sustainable management and development of Whitehorse sporting grounds and associated facilities.
- Commence development of Landscape Concept Design for Slater Reserve in Blackburn North.

Corporate Services

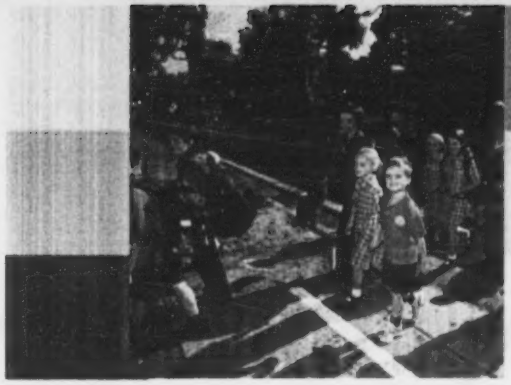
COMPLIANCE

FINANCE

INFORMATION SERVICES

ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT

PROPERTY AND RATES



Compliance

The department provides services in the areas of Traffic and Local Laws, Risk Management and Emergency Management.

TRAFFIC AND LOCAL LAWS

Staff in this area administer a series of acts, regulations and Local Laws that help maintain community safety and amenity. They are responsible for animal management, school crossing supervision, parking control, fire prevention and Local Law administration.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This area provides advice and support to the organisation on risk management and ensures Council's insurance requirements are met.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

This section of the Compliance Department is responsible for meeting Council's statutory obligations under the Emergency Management Act by planning the provision of support services to response and recovery agencies during an emergency.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Developed a Domestic Animal Management Plan that establishes a framework for animal management over the next three years, including the introduction of 16 key initiatives.
- Reviewed the Municipal Emergency Management Plan to ensure Council's plan meets the relevant auditing standards.
- Conducted an animal audit of the municipality to help ensure the identification of lost and wandering animals so they can be returned to their owners in the shortest possible time.
- Implemented a risk identification program that identifies risks across the organisation and develops a treatment plan to minimise and manage those identified risks.
- Reviewed Council's Risk Management Strategy to reflect current practices.
- Received more than 32,000 phone calls across the department which was 20% more than last year.
- Issued more than 19,000 pieces of correspondence.
- Attended to 550 after hours requests for service.
- Reviewed the department's web page and updated information including links to aligned sites.
- Developed a parking information sheet that provides advice to motorists on available parking around Box Hill Central Business District and the Box Hill Hospital precinct.

CHALLENGES

- Managing the difficulties in recruiting sufficient people to adequately service the School Crossing program.
- Raising awareness of the roles and responsibilities in both Risk Management and Emergency Management across the organisation.
- Engaging the community in the process of developing an animal management policy.
- Management of Risk Registers.

MOVING FORWARD

- Establish a Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre.
- Develop a strategy for the implementation of an electronic parking monitoring system including a communication and location plan.
- Implement initiatives identified in the Domestic Animal Management Plan.
- Implement strategy to improve insurers audit rating.
- Develop improved information and communication on Emergency Management.

Finance

Whitehorse's Finance Department manages all Council's financial transactions including preparing the annual budget and the annual financial statements for adoption by Council, as well as providing services to all departments for payroll, contracts and purchasing, management reporting, and accounting services. Finance carries out the treasury function for Council ensuring funds are invested according to the Whitehorse Investment Policy.

The Finance team prepares Council's critical strategic documents, the Council Plan, Strategic Resource Plan and the Long Term Financial Plan. These documents set out medium to long-term objectives to ensure that the organisation remains financially sustainable.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Achieved a rate determination (cash position) surplus for the eighth consecutive year.
- Revised the ten year long-term plan to inform future budgets and ensure financial sustainability.
- Introduced a new Budget consultation strategy to broaden the scope of consultation methods.
- Introduced the Development Reserve Governance Principles, which ensures the long term viability and value of Council's Development Reserve.
- Prepared the 2008-09 Budget which was adopted on June 16, 2008.
- Held five meetings of the Audit Advisory Committee.
- Successfully upgraded Council's finance system including enhancements to electronic purchasing, invoice approval and GST capture and reporting.
- Successfully upgraded Council's payroll system.
- Inducted a new member to the Audit Committee.
- Reviewed and updated the Whitehorse Investment Policy.

CHALLENGES

- Ensuring Council's financial sustainability by planning good steady progress towards achieving the sustainability measures set by the Victorian Auditor General.
- Continue to focus on Council's Capital Works program without affecting Council's cash reserves or needing to borrow to additional funds for major capital projects.

MOVING FORWARD

- Manage the effects of changes to Australian Accounting Standards including the new requirement to value land under roads contained in AASB 1051 Land Under Roads.
- Develop a new Council Plan following the Council Election in November 2008. This is a statutory requirement under the Local Government Act (1989), which requires Council to prepare and approve a Council Plan within six months of each general election, or by June 30, whichever is later.

Information Services

Information Services (IS) provides well supported, state-of-the-art, secure and reliable computer systems that meet the requirements of the organisation. IS staff provide the infrastructure and support for all of Council's computing systems that support the administrative functions of Council.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Completed a new Information Technology Strategic Plan that looks to enhance and build on existing business systems to address organisational computing requirements for the next three to five years.
- Continued to provide a high level of customer service to both on-site and remote staff.
- Continued the implementation and support of an electronic document management system that will improve the management of corporate information.
- Continued improvements to the security systems, providing protection against virus attacks and spam.
- Completed the implementation of a specialised system to better manage the health and well being of residents of our aged care facilities. The system also delivers tools to better manage funding requests and statutory reporting obligations to the State Government.
- Continued the phased implementation of Virtualisation and Storage Area Network Infrastructure with the aim of reducing costs, providing greater return on investment and increasing disaster recovery capabilities.

CHALLENGES

- Providing a balance between secure and robust systems, safe from viruses and other threats, and the need for computer systems that are high functioning, efficient business tools.
- To implement energy efficient technology to reduce both energy consumption and heat emissions, whilst maintaining fully functional, reliable and robust computing systems.
- To introduce economical systems that cater for the mobile workforce and enable more efficient work practices.

MOVING FORWARD

- Assist with the preparation of the requirements for a new asset management system that will integrate disparate information on a number of asset classes and allow better management and reporting.
- Undertake upgrades of the core systems that support the day-to-day business processes within Council.
- Review Council's processes and practices in relation to information management.
- Continue to develop and maintain Council's computer assets with a focus on efficiency and sustainability.
- Further implement online services to cater for resident information and payment needs.
- Implement the initiatives identified in the Information Technology Strategic Plan.

Organisation Development

The Organisation Development Department provides advice and support to managers and staff in the areas of human resource management. The unit is also responsible for training and development, Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and return to work programs, and organisation-wide projects such as organisational structure reviews and change management programs.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

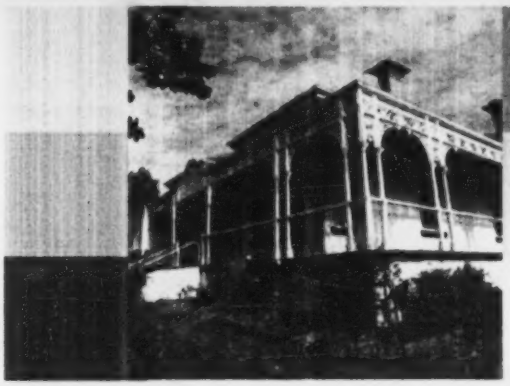
- Completion of review and roll out of revised Performance Appraisal and Development Program, incorporating a stronger focus on organisational values.
- Developed and implemented the Fit for Work Policy.
- Completed a review of the Staff Handbook.
- Conducted recruitment for 183 positions throughout the organisation.
- Coordinated a review and restructure of the Home and Community Care department and implemented a major recruitment program.
- Conducted five corporate induction programs for 85 employees.
- Developed a Workforce Planning Committee to collect workforce data and commenced implementing the Workforce Planning Strategy.
- Developed the Industrial Relations Strategy and Action Plan.
- Coordinated the Staff Consultative Committee.
- Management of applications for work experience and coordination and placement of 12 work experience students across the organisation.
- Coordination and provision of information and training sessions to management and employees in relation to the potential sale of residential facilities.
- Participation in Hewitt 'Employer of Choice' Study.
- Participation in MAV Employer Brand Project.
- Implemented the new reward and recognition program for staff.
- Initiated the Fourth Level Management Development Program with a launch in December 2007 and a conference in March 2008. Implemented the learning and development program for staff at this level.
- Developed and implemented the Human Rights Action Plan through the expanded Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Committee.
- Implemented OH&S monthly themes program.
- Conducted emergency procedures review and update for all Council premises.

CHALLENGES

- Imminent skills shortages and the ageing workforce (currently 51% of the Whitehorse workforce is over the age of 45).
- The ongoing attraction and retention of high quality staff in a number of difficult to recruit professions within Local Government such as engineers, planners, childcare workers and maternal and child health nurses.
- Timely implementation and compliance with new legislation particularly Forward with Fairness and Enterprise Partnership Agreement negotiation commencing November 2008.
- Return to work management and flow on affect to WorkCover premium management.

MOVING FORWARD

- Creation of a Succession Planning Framework for the organisation and development program for high potential staff.
- Development and implementation of a new Enterprise Partnership Agreement.
- Implement organisation wide customer focus training and specific customer service department training.
- Further enhance the Fourth Level Management Development Program and provision of relevant coaching sessions.
- Roll out of new Emergency Warning System.



Property and Rates

The key responsibilities of the Property and Rates Department include the availability and delivery of accurate land and property information, the generation and collection of rates and fees, the provision of expert technical advice and the management of Council's property asset base.

The four different groups within the department are: Geographic Information Systems (GIS); Property; Rates; and Valuations. Staff within each group co-ordinate activities such as the revaluation of all rateable properties within the municipality, provision of a rating service for more than 65,000 assessments, reconciliation of all rate revenue accounts, provision of desktop mapping tools to all Council staff and external users, and co-ordination of all property transactions for Council including sales, purchases, leases and road discontinuances. This unit also provides professional and technical advice to other Council departments managing Council land.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Adopted the 2008 General Valuation of 65,000 rateable properties for rating purposes. The total Capital Improved Value of properties in the City is now in excess of $36 billion.
- Finalised the Tenure Management Program (TMP), which introduced new lease and licence templates for more than 200 tenure occupancies. Development of the program involved extensive consultation and education across the organisation. User-friendly templated documents are now readily available to assist the day-to-day management of tenure occupancies on Council owned and managed property.
- Continued the road discontinuance program, with special attention on unused rights of way within Council parklands.
- Whitehorse Mapping – GIS Online won an award in the ESRI Australia 2007 Web GIS Challenge. This award recognises and promotes excellence in internet based GIS mapping.
- Continued to enhance and broaden capability of the GIS system through a range of projects with the delivery of more information, new map layers and additional integration to support various businesses across the organisation.
- Implemented a new process for updating VicMap Property, Parcel and Address within Council's GIS system. This allows for a greater frequency of updates delivering more timely and up-to-date property information.
- Successfully upgraded to core GIS components, including EView.
- Continued to maintain a high rate revenue collection.
- Successfully introduced the Fees for Service invoice scheme to recover the cost of the Garden Organics Bin Service.

CHALLENGES

- Implementation of the new Tenure Management Program to enable the management of leases and licenses on Council owned and controlled property.
- GIS will play a significant role in the introduction and implementation of the proposed asset management system. Identification of assets through the GIS will provide a central access point to all information and enable more efficient workflow and planning to support the development of better-targeted maintenance programs.
- Upgrade of Council's corporate computer system that manages property, rates, valuations, names and addresses and other key data sets. The upgraded system will improve functionality resulting in quicker response times and allow for more productive work practices.

MOVING FORWARD

- Managing customer's real estate market perceptions in relation to the 2008 revaluation conducted in line with best practice guidelines set down by the Valuer General Victoria.
- Issue the 2008-09 Rate Notice and respond professionally to an anticipated increase in customer enquiries due to the budget, reapportionment of rate liability resulting from the 2008 revaluation, and a current community acknowledgement of difficult economic and market conditions.
- Maintain a high collection rate for the Fees for Service for optional bin services in order to recover costs, in an environment of economic pressure.
- Review and refresh the Hardship Policy in line with an increased empathy to changing economic conditions.
- Review the valuation contract and the valuations best practice guidelines released by the Valuer General Victoria in order to successfully commence the general valuation of all rateable properties in preparation for the 2010/11 revaluations.

Infrastructure

CAPITAL WORKS

CITY WORKS

COMMERCIAL OPERATION

PARKSWIDE

Capital Works

The Capital Works Department has four key areas of responsibility:

PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

In 2007-08 Council completed 200 individual capital works projects with a combined value of $25.9 million. A five-year Capital Works program has been developed to provide guidance and direction on proposed expenditures across Council's major asset groups of roads, footpaths, drains, parks and buildings. The program gives funding priority to renewal and refurbishment projects to ensure Council's assets continue to meet the needs and expectations of the community.

Project management of building works carried out under the Capital Works program

During 2007-08, staff in the Capital Works Department managed more than 35 major building projects to the value of approximately $7 million. These included building works at Eley Park Community Centre, the Vermont South Club, Box Hill Library, Box Hill Senior Citizens Centre, Schwerkolt Equipment Museum, Aqualink Box Hill and Aqualink Nunawading.

MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL BUILDINGS

A mix of specialist contractors and in-house staff undertook planned, reactive and capital replacement programs at Council buildings during 2007-08. Approximately $2 million was spent maintaining Council's buildings, and a further $800,000 was spent on capital renewal works during the year.

CO-ORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ASSET MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROGRAM

Formal Asset Management Plans were developed for each major asset class within Council. Investigation began on the implementation of an Integrated Asset Management System to improve the management of Council's assets, which have a replacement value in excess of $1.8 billion. The 2008 Municipal Association of Victoria's Step Program Audit ranked Whitehorse as one of the top performing Victorian Councils for asset management practices.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Asset Management Planning

- Completed formal Asset Management Plans for all major asset groups.
- Started to scope and develop requirements for an Integrated Asset Management System for all asset groups.
- Developed asset lifecycle costing guidelines and templates.
- Further developed Council's asset management framework designed to guide the improvement of asset management practices across the organisation.
- Completed successful audits of Council's asset management practices in September 2007 and May 2008 under the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Advanced STEP program.
- Achieved excellent results under the MAV Step Asset Management Improvement Program.

Roads, Footpaths, Traffic Management and Drains

- Undertook $1 million in local road rehabilitation/ resurfacing works to extend the life of existing roads.
- Installed $290,000 of new traffic management devices and road safety initiatives to improve the safety of motorists and pedestrians.
- Invested $697,000 in the replacement, upgrade and provision of new drains in Council's stormwater drainage network, including work on stormwater retention at Bolton Reserve in Box Hill.

Parks and Sportsfields

- Completed the Open Space Strategy.
- Upgraded various parks, playgrounds and sports fields including Wren Close Reserve in Nunawading, Highbury Park in Burwood East, Wurundjeri Walk in Blackburn South and Blackburn Creeklands and Blackburn Lake Sanctuary.
- Invested $590,000 to complete the widening / resurfacing of Hagenauer Reserve Athletic Track in Box Hill.
- Completed the Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan implementation including the construction of a wetland.
- Replaced the Mitcham Bowls Club traditional grass green with a new drought resistant green.
- Continued Council's sustainable turf management program for conversion of sporting field turf from cool season grasses to warm season grasses.

Buildings

- Finalised the design, let a tender and progressed the construction of the $8.3 million Vermont South Multipurpose Indoor Sports Facility.
- Substantially completed building extension works at the Whitehorse Civic Centre in Nunawading.
- Significant works continued at the Eley Park Community Centre in Blackburn South including internal refurbishment and alterations to accommodate The Avenue Neighbourhood House.
- Installed a $300,000 replacement pool filtration system, including associated pipe work, at Aqualink Box Hill.
- Substantially completed redevelopment works at the Vermont South Club comprising a clubroom upgrade, a car park construction and a new bowling green.
- Invested $100,000 in sustainable water initiatives at various sites.
- Constructed a new equipment museum at Schwerkolt Cottage in Mitcham.
- Upgraded the reception and office areas at Aqualink Nunawading.

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

- Completed Essential Service Measures audits on 90 buildings.
- Commenced the refurbishment of Aqualink Box Hill's dry change room and foyer toilets.
- Installed water saving initiatives such as tap aerators, dual flush toilets and water saving showerheads at various sites.
- Renewed a range of planned maintenance contracts following competitive processes.
- Implemented a security card access system at the Council Operations Centre.
- Ongoing master re-keying of Council facilities.

CHALLENGES

- Aiming to deliver 95% of all capital projects on time and on budget.
- Ensuring staff are involved and take ownership in implementing Council's integrated Asset Management System.
- Continuing to provide best practice asset management education, assistance and tools and to all relevant staff.
- Reviewing and improving the capital works nomination process.
- Ensuring Council's buildings comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and the Essential Services Regulations.
- Developing Council's facilities database to record essential safety measures for compliance.

MOVING FORWARD

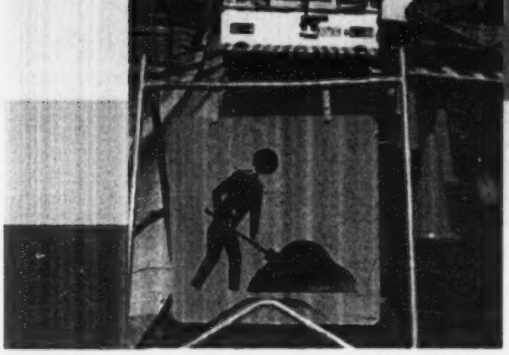
- Continue to develop and refine the processes and procedures for Capital Works planning, project scoping and reporting to enhance the value to internal clients, external stakeholders and the local community.
- Develop and document scoping requirements for the implementation a corporate integrated Asset Management System for all Council assets.
- Review service levels for a range of asset classes taking into account budget and community expectations.
- Build on developed knowledge and competence of Capital Works departmental staff to promote worthwhile sustainability initiatives and environmental sustainability design across the organisation, including identification and incorporation of affordable Environmentally Sustainable Design into building projects.
- Assist with the development of improved risk management initiatives relating to the planning, design and delivery of Capital Works projects.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHT – RECOGNITION FOR ASSET MANAGEMENT

Whitehorse achieved an excellent result in the 2008 MAV Step audit being named as one of the top performing Council's in Victoria. This excellent result reflected the significant emphasis Council placed on improving its asset management practices over the past 12 months including developing formal Asset Management Plans for all asset groups, as well as beginning an integrated Asset Management System project.

Council manages a wide range of assets, which are estimated to be worth in excess of $1.8 billion. These assets include roads, footpaths, drains, reserves, buildings, plant and fleet and cultural assets and are used to provide a range of services to the Whitehorse community.

Council is now embarking on improving the management of asset information, knowledge and processes, which support Council's asset base. This challenge will be tackled over the next few years by implementing an integrated Asset Management System for Council.



City Works

Council's City Works Department is responsible for the maintenance of Whitehorse's 700 kilometres of sealed roads, 1300 kilometres of footpath, 800 kilometres of underground drains and 72 shopping centres. Other services provided by City Works include street signs, line marking, removing graffiti, street sweeping, cleaning public barbecues and toilets, empty street litter bins and collecting rubbish that has been dumped.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Involvement in the maintenance and protection of Council's assets during the Middleborough Road Rail Separation project delivered by VicRoads.
- Management of the December 2007 storms, which caused significant flooding across the municipality.
- Assisted ParksWide in clearing debris and undertaking necessary repairs to Council infrastructure during and after the significant windstorms in April 2008.
- Introduction of the Community Correctional Services graffiti removal program through the Department of Justice, which has delivered a significant reduction of graffiti across the municipality.
- Review of the asphalt maintenance crew and implementation of new works procedures for improved productivity.
- Review of safety procedures for after hours work of the standby crew.
- Review of the township cleansing operations to introduce higher levels of service delivery.
- Review of the CityWide street sweeping contract and implementation of processes for improved service delivery across all township centres and car parks.
- Service authorities undertaking reinstatement of damaged Council assets to Council's specification.
- Review of Job Safety Analysis for all outdoor crew and development of new safety audit forms to reflect job processes and safer working environments.
- Completed $1 million of footpath reconstruction and upgrade works.

CHALLENGES

- Provide stable workforce in City Works and fill all full time permanent positions.
- Introduction of appropriate footpath mechanical sweeper and implementation of township cleansing review.

MOVING FORWARD

- Develop a new inspection system for footpaths, kerbs, and roadside stormwater pits to identify and program footpath asset defect works in accordance with the Road Management Plan.
- Improve response to Civic Mutual Plus (Council's insurer) audit result for general asset inspection and maintenance using technology.
- Review of the Thiess litterbin collection service.
- Review of the CityWide heavy leaf street sweeping program.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHT – TOWNSHIP CLEANSING

A review of the township cleansing operation set out to investigate, develop and implement improvements to the level of service in order to meet the growing expectations of the community. The CityWide street sweeping service within township shopping centres and the Thiess litterbin collection service were reviewed to meet this expectation. The outcomes of these reviews will enhance the reputation, image and profile of the township cleansing team and the City Works Department.

Commercial Operations

Whitehorse's Commercial Operations Department is responsible for managing the Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Transfer Centre, Council's plant and vehicle fleet, and the Operations Centre including the workshop and store.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Recycling and Waste Centre

- Implemented leachate and gas borehole monitoring system on old landfill site.
- Paved green waste collection area and diverted around 6000 tonnes of green waste from going to landfill.
- Obtained 50% funding from Sustainability Victoria to pave green waste area.
- Commissioned new computer cashiering system including new hardware and software with internet download capabilities.

Plant and Vehicle Assets

- Passed external bus and mass management accreditation audits with no corrective actions.
- Upgraded mass management accreditation to comply with new national heavy vehicle scheme by including suspension modules.
- Completed a review on the use of compressed natural gas for heavy vehicles.
- Added another five hybrid vehicles to Council's passenger vehicle fleet.

Operations Centre and Stores

- Installed electronic access and a boom gate security system.

CHALLENGES

- Risk Management
- Business efficiency
- Staff education and training

MOVING FORWARD

- Set up a permanent paint collection service at the Recycling and Waste Transfer Centre.
- Install new weighbridges.
- Continue to investigate new vehicle technologies.
- Improve site security.
- Repair access road.
- Repair waste pit floor.

Parkswide

The City of Whitehorse has 550 hectares of open space, including parks, gardens, remnant bushland, recreation reserves and trails, most of which provides important habitat for local flora and fauna. The municipality is also known for its distinctive tree-lined streets that contribute to the amenity of the area.

The ParksWide team maintains and improves these extensive park and horticultural assets in close collaboration with the community, particularly Parkland Advisory Committees. Major activities undertaken include maintenance and enhancement of remnant bushland reserves, management and maintenance of street and park trees, general parks and gardens maintenance and horticultural services. ParksWide also manages Council's nursery, maintains and manages Council's sportsfields and maintains playgrounds and other open space infrastructure.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Managed the response to severe flooding event in December 2007 and windstorm in April 2008.
- Successfully completed the fire season without major incident.
- Planted more than 4000 trees, shrubs and grasses at Bolton Reserve on National Tree Day.
- Produced in excess of 130,000 plants at Council's nursery and sold over 75,000 during the year. The majority of these plants were indigenous.
- Donated in excess of 5000 plants to local schools and community groups.
- Planted more than 1300 street trees.
- Implemented second year of indigenous corridor planting.
- Engaged two horticultural apprentices.
- In partnership with Box Hill Secondary College, delivered Certificate III Horticulture Certificate to students.
- Implemented Sustainable Drought Management Plan for sportsfields.
- Installed new cricket practice wickets at Box Hill City Oval.
- Installed drought tolerant warm season grasses at Whitehorse Reserve.
- Established Heatherdale Wetland.
- Nominated for a Work Safe award for innovative development of a self-locking wing on tractor mowers.

CHALLENGES

- Managing open space in current drought environment coupled with severe water restrictions.
- Sustainable reinstatement of drought affected areas including ovals, general open space, trees and garden beds.
- Implementing recently established asset management plan for the department.
- Advocating for modification of the Road Management Act 2004 in relation to vegetation management.

MOVING FORWARD

- Establish Wurundjeri Walk Wetlands in Blackburn South.
- Introduce warm season grasses at selected sportsfields.
- Major review of Job Safety Audit program.
- Introduce formalised OH&S initiatives for volunteers.
- Enhance indigenous corridor through Somers Trail in Mitcham.

SECTION THREE

Governance

GOOD GOVERNANCE

PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

BEST VALUE PROGRAM

RISK MANAGEMENT

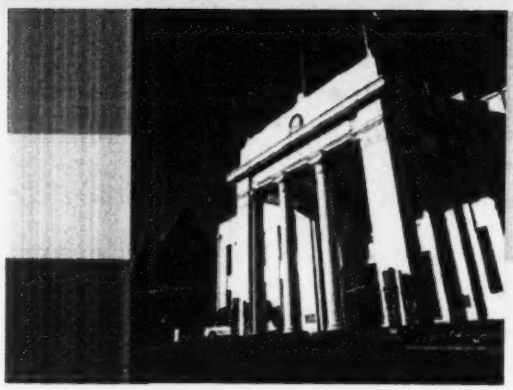
CORPORATE INFORMATION

LOCAL LAWS AND ORDERS

MEMBERSHIPS

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

COMMUNITY GRANTS



Good Governance

The City of Whitehorse believes good governance is a vital part of Local Government and being accountable to the community. We have identified good governance in our Council Plan, reflecting Council's commitment to open and transparent government, acting with integrity and compassion, and maintaining the highest level of good management. Good governance provides residents with the confidence to know that their rates are being used wisely, and that their democratically elected Councillors are making decisions based on proper processes and systems.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Whitehorse Council holds Ordinary and Special Council Meetings where Councillors, acting together to form Council, debate issues in a public forum and make decisions, called "resolutions". Council officers then carry out these decisions.

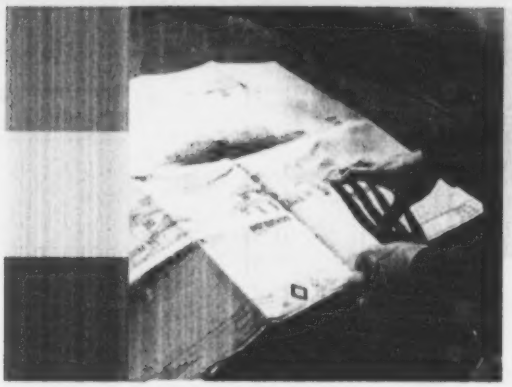
During the year, Whitehorse Council held 10 Special Committee Meetings and 15 Council Meetings. The following is a list of Councillor attendance at each of these meetings.

DATE	TYPE OF MEETING	COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE
July 9, 2007	Special Committee	All present
July 16, 2007	Council Meeting	All present
August 13, 2007	Special Committee	Apology by Cr Koutras and Cr Clarke
August 20, 2007	Council Meeting	Apology by Cr Koutras and Cr Stennett
September 10, 2007	Special Committee	Apology by Cr Droutsas
September 17, 2007	Council Meeting	All present
October 8, 2007	Special Committee	All present
October 15, 2007	Council Meeting	Apology by Cr Droutsas
October 22, 2007	Special Meeting – Annual Report	Apology by Cr Aubrey, Cr Chong, Cr Droutsas and Cr Ellis
November 12, 2007	Special Committee	Apology by Cr Droutsas
November 12, 2007	Special Meeting – Funding Agreement	Apology by Cr Droutsas
November 19, 2007	Council Meeting	Apology by Cr Aubrey and Cr Droutsas
December 5, 2007	Special Statutory Meeting	Apology by Cr Clarke
December 17, 2007	Council Meeting	All present
January 29, 2008	Council Meeting	Apology by Cr Koutras
February 11, 2008	Special Committee	Apology by Cr Koutras
February 18, 2008	Council Meeting	Apology by Cr Koutras
March 11, 2008	Special Committee	All present
March 17, 2008	Council Meeting	All present
April 14, 2008	Special Committee	All present
April 21, 2008	Council Meeting	All present
May 12, 2008	Special Committee	Apology by Cr Aubrey
May 19, 2008	Council Meeting	Apology by Cr Aubrey
June 10, 2008	Special Committee	Apology by Cr Droutsas
June 16, 2008	Council Meeting	All present

Performance Statement

Whitehorse Council is required under the Local Government Act to report on its key strategic activities identified in its 2007-08 annual budget and carried out in that year. These activities are listed below:

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	RESULT 2007/08
Responsible Leadership and Governance	Complete the strategic upgrade of the Whitehorse Civic Centre.	Upgrade of facility commenced in 2008. Project expected to be completed in October 2008.
	Undertake a detailed options and feasibility analysis to address transport issues in Springvale Road at Whitehorse Road and the railway line (Stream 1).	Completed draft study and report in partnership with State and Federal Government agencies. Issued July 4, 2008 and circulated to Councillors with a covering memo on July 7, 2008.
Foster Local Economy	Complete the Box Hill Business / Marketing Plan.	Plan development commenced. Expected to be completed in 2008/09 when vacancy filled.
	Commence the Blackburn Structure Plan.	Structure Plan not funded.
Support our Community	Eley Park Community Centre Redevelopment Stage one – internal alterations.	Project completion date extended to October 2008 as a result of both stages 1 and 2 being combined to achieve cost efficiencies.
	Development of the Municipal Health Plan.	Whitehorse Municipal Public Health Plan 2008-2010 completed and forwarded to Council for final adoption on July 21, 2008. Implementation to commence August 2008.
Protect and Enhance our Natural Environment	Construct a Stormwater Retention System at Bolton Reserve (adjacent to Box Hill City Oval).	The project was completed in October 2007 and the system was commissioned in December 2007. The project won an award from the Stormwater Industry Association for excellence at the Victorian State and National level.
Create Sustainable Urban Environments	Refurbishment of the Box Hill Business District.	Physical upgrade of the Box Hill Mall completed. Bruce Street revitalisation upgrade completed. Laneway feasibility study completed together with sustainable urban treatments throughout Box Hill.



Certificate of Performance Statement

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the Whitehorse City Council in respect of the 2007/08 financial year is presented fairly in ccordance with the Local Government Act 1989.

The statement outlines the performance targets and measures set out in relation to the achievement of the Key Strategic Activities in respect of that year described in Coucil's 2007/08 Annual Budget and describes the extent to which the activities have been met in that year having regard to those targets and measures.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances, which would render any particular in the statement to be misleading or inaccurate.

Councillor

Hayley Clarke

Dated: 21/08/08
Nunawading

Councillor

Robert Chong

Dated: 21/08/08
Nunawading

Chief Executive Officer

Noelene Duff

Dated: 21/08/08
Nunawading

Independent Audit Report

VAGO

Victorian Auditor-General's Office

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Councillors, Whitehorse City Council

The Performance Statement

The accompanying performance statement for the year ended 30 June 2008 of Whitehorse City Council which comprises the statement, the related notes and the certification of performance statement has been audited.

The Councillors Responsibility for the Performance Statement

The Councillors of Whitehorse City Council are responsible for the preparation and the fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the *Local Government Act* 1989. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement that is free of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the *Local Government Act* 1989 my responsibility is to express an opinion on the performance statement based on the audit, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance whether the performance statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the performance statement. The audit procedures selected depend on judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the performance statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, consideration is given to internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the overall presentation of the performance statement.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Matters Relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Performance Statement

This auditor's report relates to the statement of performance published in both the annual report and on the website of Whitehorse City Council for the year ended 30 June 2008. The Councillors are responsible for the integrity of the web site. I have not been engaged to report on the integrity of the web site. The auditor's report refers only to the statements named above. An opinion is not provided on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to or from these statements. If users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications, they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited performance statement to confirm the information included in the audited performance statement presented on the Council's web site.

Level 24, 35 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic. 3000
Telephone 61 3 8601 7000 Facsimile 61 3 8601 7010 Email comments@audit.vic.gov.au Website www.audit.vic.gov.au

Auditing in the Public Interest

VAGO

Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Independent Audit Report (continued)

Independence

The Auditor-General's independence is established by the *Constitution Act* 1975. The Auditor-General is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which his powers and responsibilities are to be exercised. In conducting the audit the Auditor-General, his staff and delegates complied with all applicable independence requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Auditor's Opinion

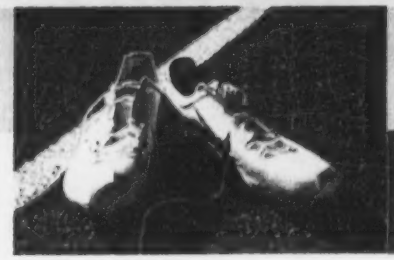
In my opinion, the performance statement of Whitehorse City Council in respect of the 30 June 2008 financial year presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the *Local Government Act* 1989

MELBOURNE
22 August 2008

D D R Pearson
Auditor-General

Level 24, 35 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000
Telephone 61 3 8601 7000 Facsimile 61 3 8601 7010 Email comments@audit.vic.gov.au Website www.audit.vic.gov.au

Best Value Program



Council has an ongoing program of Best Value Service Reviews in accordance with the requirements of section 208 of the *Local Government Act (1989)*. This report provides summary information on Council's approach to Best Value and on the status and outcome of Best Value Service Reviews carried out in 2007-08. More detailed information is located on Council's website www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au under Publications and Policies (Best Value).

COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO BEST VALUE

Council is required under the *Local Government Act (1989)* to comply with the Best Value Principles and report to the community on its achievements. The principles are as follows:

- The need for services to deliver against agreed quality and cost standards.
- Services being responsive to changing community needs.
- Accessibility of services to those who need them.
- Continuous improvement in the delivery of services.
- Community consultation on services and activities.
- Regular annual reporting to the community on Council's performance.

Section 208C of the *Local Government Act (1989)* requires Council to take account of the following factors when developing its quality and cost standards:

- The best on offer in the public and private sectors.
- Value for money.
- Community expectations and values.
- Balance of affordability and accessibility.
- Opportunities for local employment growth.
- Partnership building with other levels of government.
- Environmental sustainability.

Three fundamental principles guide the implementation of Best Value at the City of Whitehorse, namely:

- Whitehorse's Best Value process is used to ensure that all of the city's services and activities provide high quality and good value for money to the community.
- Council is committed to ensuring that, where appropriate, the services being provided by Council staff continue to be delivered internally unless it can be demonstrated that it would be better value to the community for these services to be provided by others.
- The Best Value process is implemented in accordance with the Victorian Government's Competitive Neutrality Policy Victoria 2000.

With the completion of Council's initial five year program of reviews in June 2004, and in the light of the outcomes of the review of the Best Value Program undertaken for the Victorian Government by the Best Value Commission, Council continues to review its approach to the conduct of service reviews.

Council has found the service review process beneficial in enabling it to ensure that its services meet the changing needs of the community as well as in providing an opportunity to compare Council's performance with like services in the public and private sectors. Whitehorse Council will continue to apply the Best Value principles when conducting service reviews and continue to report to the community on the outcomes of its reviews through reports to Council and annual reports on the implementation of Best Value placed on Council's website.

In terms of the development of a program of reviews, Council takes a strategic approach to the conduct of reviews, identifying services for review on the basis of:

- Significance in achieving Council's strategic goals.
- Capacity to lead to significant improvement in service delivery.
- Changes in community satisfaction with the service.
- Changes in community expectations or demands for the service.
- Alterations in government policy that have major ramifications for service delivery.
- The length of time that has lapsed since the previous review.

CONDUCT OF BEST VALUE SERVICE REVIEWS

Each Best Value Service Review is conducted by the relevant work team and led by the manager of that team. Managers and teams are supported in this process through the use of a common review template and the provision of a central resource that provides information, advice and training. Service reviews have three distinct stages:

Stage One
Service Analysis
- Describe service.
- Describe current service levels.

Stage Two
Service Model
- Needs analysis.
- Compare service against best on offer in public and private sectors.
- Develop draft standards on service levels, cost and quality.
- Community consultation.

Stage Three
Advice to Council
- Method for service delivery.
- Service provider option.
- Risk and impact.
- Market maturity.
- Council approval of service model.

At the conclusion of each service review, Council receives a report that contains:

- A description of the existing service standards and a proposed method of service delivery, with defined service levels and cost and quality standards that have been benchmarked and tested through consultation.
- An analysis of the service delivery options available, including an analysis of the maturity of the market, a risk assessment of each option and an assessment against the competitive neutrality policy.
- Advice on the preferred service delivery option.

PROGRESS OF SERVICE REVIEWS

Whitehorse Council completed its initial five year program of service reviews in 2004. In 2006-07 Council commenced an ongoing program of service reviews, which are currently in progress as listed below:

SERVICE	REVIEW PROGRESS
Customer Service	Ongoing
Family Day Care	Completed
Environmental Health	Commenced November 2006
Building Services	Commenced January 2007
Arts and Culture Strategy (Cultural Facilities and Programs) Commenced	July 2007
Community Development	Due for completion December 2008
Sustainability Practices (green organic services)	Commenced July 2007
Traffic and Local Laws	January 2008 reviewed initiatives
Strategic Planning	June 2008 completed stage 1
Waste and Recycling Service	To commence July 2008
Transport	To commence July 2009

In a separate 2007-08 Best Value Annual Report, Council reports on the quality and cost standards and performance measures for all services that have been reviewed and on the application of the Best Value principles in the review process. Members of the community can access this report on Council's website www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au under Publications and Policies.

Risk Management

Risk management is an essential function of Local Government. This involves identifying, evaluating and appropriately responding to all risks associated with Council activities. Whitehorse Council takes risk management very seriously and this is reflected in the adoption of a new Risk Management Policy and Strategy that better defines the objectives and responsibilities of individuals and the organisation.

The new strategy outlines that essentially the City of Whitehorse will:

- Create and maintain an environment that enables Council to deliver high quality services and meet performance objectives in line with its vision by:
  - Providing good governance
  - Creating a regionally significant economy
  - Caring for our environment
  - Sustaining our community
- In accordance with the Risk Management Policy and Strategy, implement a framework that provides an effective process for the identification, analysis and management of impacts, both negative and positive on physical, social and economic capital, thereby supporting sustainability and safeguarding Council's assets - people, finances, property and reputation.
- Ensure resources and operational capabilities are identified and deployed responsibly and effectively.
- Demonstrate the application of the Risk Management process as detailed in the Risk Management Standard AS/NZS 4360:2004 which aligns with best practice.

The Risk Management Committee, comprising senior managers from across the organisation, and chaired by the Chief Executive Officer, continues to monitor the compliance with Council's Risk Management Policy and Strategy.

Risk Management is supported by a software package to assist departments in the recording, rating and monitoring of risk across the organisation in a consistent format. Reports produced are submitted to departments regularly to enable management to review their risk status with a particular focus of higher rated risks and risks that have target completion dates pending.

COUNCIL-WIDE RISK MANAGEMENT E-LEARNING PROGRAM

This program has been extended across the organisation enabling staff to learn more about risk management processes and expectations at their workstation. Staff can access the training at times that suit and pace themselves according learning to abilities.

COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY FACILITY RISK MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Support continues to be provided to various Council departments to implement recommendations following inspections that focused on risk issues. Recommendations can be a result of immediate concerns or from the results of insurer audits.

PROPERTY AUDIT

Council is subject to an annual property insurer audit of key sites which helps to identify issues relating to risk management. The audit involves site inspections, looking at the areas of fire and arson risk, burglary and theft exposures and water and storm damage. The audits also consider employee, volunteer and contractor accountabilities and training, along with performance monitoring systems. The results of these audits enable Council to address areas that may need attention and further improvement.

LIABILITY AUDIT

Council's liability insurer, Civic Mutual Plus, continues to conduct an annual audit of Council's systems and processes to identify, evaluate and control liability risks. New areas covered in the most recent audit include food safety and working with children. The results of these audits also enable Council to address areas that may need further attention and assists in budgeting and planning process.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Council's Internal Audit Committee receive regular reports on Council's risk management position and performance to provide an independent over review of Council's performance in this area.

Corporate Information

WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT (2001)

The *Whistleblowers Protection Act (2001)* encourages and facilitates the making of disclosures of improper conduct or detrimental action by public officers and public bodies. The Act provides protection to people who make disclosures in accordance with the Act and establishes a system for the matters disclosed to be investigated and for rectifying action to be taken.

In accordance with the Act, Council has adopted detailed procedures for dealing with any disclosures it may receive. Copies of these procedures are available for inspection at Council's service centres and on Council's website.
As required by section 104 of the *Whistleblowers Protection Act (2001)*, it is reported that:

- Council has established procedures under Part 6 of the Act to deal with any disclosures made under the Act. These procedures are available to the public.
- The number and types of disclosures made during the year - For the period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 one disclosure alleging improper conduct was received.
- The number of disclosures referred during the year to the Ombudsman for determination as to whether they are a public interest disclosure – One.
- The number and types of disclosed matters referred to Council during the year by the Ombudsman – One.
- The number and types of disclosed matters referred during the year by Council to investigate – Nil.
- The number and types of investigations of disclosed matters taken over by the Ombudsman from the Council during the year – Nil.
- The number of requests made by a person under Section 74 of the Act to the Ombudsman to investigate disclosed matters referred to Council – Nil.
- The number and types of disclosed matters that Council has declined to investigate during the year – Nil.
- The number and types of disclosed matters that were substantiated on investigation and the action taken on completion of the investigation – Nil.
- Recommendations made by the Ombudsman under the Act to Council – Nil.

INFORMATION PRIVACY ACT (2000)

The City of Whitehorse is strongly committed to protecting an individual's right to privacy and responsibly handling personal information. Council aims to fully comply with its obligations under the *Information Privacy Act (2000)* and the *Health Records Act (2001)*. Council has developed policies and procedures to comply with the information privacy principles contained in both Acts.

Council's undertakings include:

- Regular review of personal information held.
- Regular training and information provided to ensure staff are aware of the requirements of the legislation.
- Incorporating privacy statements on Council forms to collate information, explaining: The reason why the personal information is being collected; How the information can be accessed; The purpose for which the information is collected; With whom the Council shares the information; Any relevant laws; The consequences for the individual if all or part of the information is not collected; and the adoption of a privacy policy and complaints process. The policy will be made available through Council's service centres and on the website.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Since January 1994, Council has been subject to the *Freedom of Information Act (1982)*, which provides the community with access to documents in Council's possession, subject to various exemptions and exceptions.

For the period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 there were:

- 11 requests made to Council regarding Freedom of Information.
- 1 request was withdrawn.
- 3 requests when no documents were found relevant to the request.
- 2 occasions when full access was granted.
- 2 occasions when part access was granted.
- 1 occasion when the request was outside of the provisions of FOI Act.
- 2 requests in various stage of process at June 2008.

The provisions of the Act under which the above decisions were made were:

- Access denied in part – Sections 33(1), 35(1)(b), of the Freedom of Information Act.
- Access provided via as of right release, Section 14(1) the Freedom of Information Act applies.

The names and designation of the officers with authority to make a decision on a request are: A (Tony) De Fazio, Manager Civic Services and Jenny Russell, Team Leader Governance.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Section 222 of the *Local Government Act (1989)* entitles any person to inspect and take copies (subject to a fee) of prescribed accounts and records. The following are prescribed accounts and records that may be accessed at Council offices during normal working hours:

- Annual Report for each financial year.
- Annual Financial Statements including: an Operating Statement; a statement of financial position; and notes to the financial statements.
- Budget or Revised Budget for the current financial year.
- Current copy of the Council Plan.
- Local Laws and Orders for the municipality.
- Details of allowances fixed for the Mayor and Councillors under Section 74 and 74A of the *Local Government Act (1989)*.
- Details of senior officers' total salary packages for the current financial year and the previous year including the gross salary, the amount of the Council or employer contribution to superannuation, the value of any motor vehicle provided by Council and the total value of any other benefits and allowances provided by Council.
- Details of overseas or interstate travel (with the exception of interstate travel by land for less than three days) undertaken in an official capacity by Councillors or any member of Council staff in the previous 12 months, including the names of the Councillors or members of Council staff and the date, destination, purpose and total cost of the overseas or interstate travel.
- Names of Council officers who are required to submit a return of interest during the financial year, and the dates the returns were submitted.
- Names of Councillors who submitted returns of interest during the financial year and the dates the returns were submitted.
- Agendas and Minutes of Ordinary and Special Meetings held in the previous 12 months kept under Section 93 of the Act except if the Minutes relate to parts of meetings that have been closed to members of the public under Section 89 of the Act.
- A list of all Special Committees established by Council and the purpose for which each committee was established.
- A list of all Special Committees established by Council which were abolished or ceased to function during the financial year.
- Minutes of meetings of Special Committees under Section 86 of the Act and held in the previous 12 months except if the Minutes relate to parts of meetings which have been closed to members of the public under Section 89 of the Act.
- A register of delegations kept under Sections 87, 88 and 98 of the Act, including the date on which the last review under section 98(6) of the Act took place.
- Submissions received in accordance with Section 223 of the Act during the previous 12 months.
- Agreements to establish regional libraries under Section 196 of the Act.
- Details of all property, finance and operating leases involving land, buildings, plant, computer equipment or vehicles entered into by Council as lessor or lessee, including the name of the other party to the lease and the terms and the value of the lease.
- Register of authorised officers appointed under Section 224 of the Act.
- A list of donations and grants made by Council during the financial year including the names of persons or bodies which have received a donation or grant and the amount of each donation or grant.
- A list of the names of the organisations of which Council was a member during the financial year and details of all membership fees and other amounts and services provided during that year to each organisation by Council.
- A list of contracts valued at $100,000 or more which Council entered into during the financial year without first engaging in a competitive process and which are not contracts referred to in Section 186(5) of the Act.

AUDIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2007-08

The role of Whitehorse Council's Audit Advisory Committee is to have an overview of the financial, management and system controls in place to protect Council's assets. This is not a decision-making forum, but performs a review function. On occasions the Committee may refer matters to the Council for decision.

The Audit Committee comprises two appointed Councillors, and two independent persons with industry experience. The current independent member of this Committee and Chairperson is Mr Michael Said, (appointed in July 2004) who is also Chairperson of the Audit Committees of both Greater Dandenong and Moorabool Councils, and an independent member of both the Whittlesea City Council Audit Committee and the Chisholm Institute of TAFE Audit Committee. The second independent person appointed in November 2006 was Mr Ray Liggett.

The Chief Executive Officer is required to be present at the meeting, and the General Manager Corporate Services attends each meeting unless advised to the contrary. The internal auditor is invited to each meeting, and the external auditor may be invited where appropriate.

Through a competitive tendering process Council appointed RSM Bird Cameron, Chartered Accountants, as its Internal Auditors for a three-year period (July 2006 to June 2009). RSM Bird Cameron performed a risk assessment of Council's operations and recommended a three-year audit program to cover these aspects. Mr Stan Naylor, Partner, Mr Jayesh Kapitan, Manager Risk Assurance Services are the RSM Bird Cameron representatives. The Audit Committee has adopted the Internal Audit work program for a three-year period, and receives reports from the Internal Auditor on these issues. The Audit Committee also receives update reports in relation to any previous matters raised by the Internal Auditors to ensure that these are adequately addressed.

The external auditor is the Victorian Auditor General who has appointed the accounting firm DFK Collins Chartered Accountants to conduct the annual statutory audit.

The Audit Committee also reviews the responses from the officers in respect of matters raised by other audit reports such as the "Due Diligence Audits" and the annual statutory audit, and monitors the progress of the officers in dealing with these items.

Following the Internal Audit Review on the Audit Committee, Council resolved to amend the Audit Charter to include an annual review of the Audit Advisory Committee performance and an expansion of activities and responsibilities. This review has embraced much of the "Model Audit Committee Charter" contained in the recently released "Better Practice Guide for Public Sector Audit Committees" from the Commonwealth Auditor General's Office, as well as the Local Government Best Practice Guidelines and Financial Management Compliance Framework established for Victorian Public Sector Agencies.

During 2007-08 a review was conducted of the Audit Advisory Committee Charter by DJK Consulting. The review concluded that the Charter continued to provide an adequate framework for the independent assurance and assistance to the CEO on Council's corporate governance practices. The review also recommended that the Charter be amended to reflect the expanded responsibility of the Audit Advisory Committee to include an oversight role when requested to do so by Council or the CEO.

The minutes of the Audit Advisory Committee are distributed to all Councillors and a report on audit issues is reported in the quarterly management report following each audit meeting. The Committee met five times during the 2007-08 financial year.

AUDIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson/Independent member – Mr Mike Said.

Independent member – Mr Ray Liggett.

Councillor representative – Cr Hayley Clarke.

Councillor representative – Cr Robert Chong OAM.

INTERNAL AUDITOR

Mr Stan Naylor, Partner RSM Bird Cameron Chartered Accountants (2006-09).

EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE PROVIDER

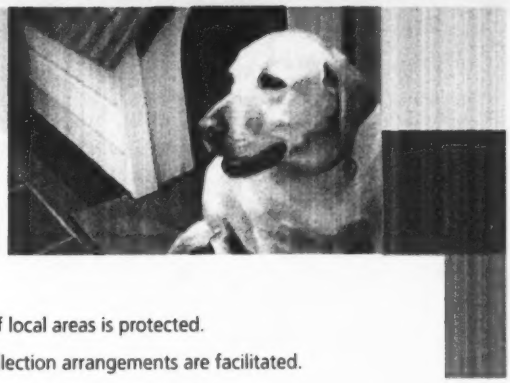
Victorian Auditor General represented by Mr Stephen O'Kane, Partner DFK Collins Chartered Accountants.

AUDIT RISK PLAN REVIEWS IN 2007-08

As part of the 2006-09 Audit Risk Plan, the Audit Advisory Committee received review reports on the following:

- 2006-07 Annual Report and Audit Management Letter.
- Review of Council's Information Technology General Control Environment.
- Review of Capital Works Management.
- Review of Building Projects Specifications and Delivery.
- Review of Purchasing and Accounts Payable.
- Review of Cash Collection and Handling Processes.
- Review of Council's Legislative Compliance Processes.
- Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2008-09.

Local Laws and Orders



To help maintain the amenity of the municipality and safety of the community, Council administers State Government and Council developed Local Laws and Orders.

The Community Local Law No 1 and Order No 2 – Animal Control have been designed to address local issues at a local level. These controls put in place minimum community standards in the areas of waste management, animal control, use of public areas and the protection of Council assets.

The purpose of Council's Community Local Law No 1 is to:

- Provide for the peace, order and good government of the municipal district.
- Regulate or control activities related to the use or enjoyment of, or work on, Council assets.
- Protect the health, safety and enjoyment of persons who:
  - Reside in or visit the municipal district.
  - Use or work on Council assets.
- Protect community property and Council assets from damage and ensure that such property or Council asset is in a state fit for its intended or likely use.
- Regulate or control conditions or activities that are detrimental, or that may cause detriment, to the:
  - Amenity or environment of the municipal district.
  - Health and safety of any person.
  - Safety of any property.
- Prevent annoying and unreasonable conditions or activities which interfere with, or may cause interference with, the reasonable use by, or enjoyment of, residents, or any other person, of roads or other facilities under the care and management of Council.
- Ensure that the keeping of animals or birds at any property within the municipal district is reasonable, and that places in which animals or birds are kept are maintained in a clean condition.
- Ensure that public health or nuisance problems do not occur due to unsatisfactory practices in caring and providing proper and clean facilities for animals or birds, which are kept at any property within the municipal district.
- Require the removal of animal faeces so that public health, nuisance or environmental problems are avoided.
- Regulate the collection and disposal of defined items of household refuse, recyclable goods and hard garbage, so that:
  - Public health and safety and nuisance problems are avoided.
  - Amenity of local areas is protected.
  - Orderly collection arrangements are facilitated.
- Regulate storage of trade waste so that:
  - Public health and safety and nuisance problems are avoided.
  - Amenity of local areas is protected.
- Regulate transportation of refuse, rubbish or waste matter, so that:
  - Public health and safety and nuisance problems are avoided.
  - Amenity of local areas is protected.
- Regulate the use of Council's Recycling and Waste Centre so that public health and safety and nuisance problems are avoided.
- Minimise potentially adverse environmental impacts of waste accumulation, collection or disposal.

Council's Order No 2 – Animal Control establishes a series of standards in the management and control of dogs in public areas. The order requires that all dogs being exercised in public areas must be on a lead or similar device of no more than 1.5 metres in length unless it is in a designated dog off lead park.

Even when a dog is in a "dog off lead park" it must be under effective control and not create a nuisance. The following are details relating to the use of the dog off lead parks in Whitehorse.

OFF LEAD AREAS

Dogs are an important part of our community and people of all ages enjoy walking and exercising their dogs in parks across the municipality. In Whitehorse dogs must be on a lead at all times when they are in public places unless signage indicates otherwise.

There are currently 19 areas in Whitehorse where dog owners can responsibly exercise their animals off leads. These areas are located in Blackburn, Blackburn South, Forest Hill, Nunawading, Burwood East, Box Hill, Mont Albert North, Box Hill North, Burwood, Mitcham, Surrey Hills and Vermont South. For further details visit Council's website at www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Within the off lead parks there are certain areas such as picnic areas, playgrounds and sporting fields that are also designated for use by other members of the community. Dog owners are required to keep their animals 50 metres from these areas at all times.

Council reminds owners that when dogs are off the lead they must remain under effective control at all times. Owners who allow their dogs off lead in non-designated areas may be issued an infringement.

Memberships

Whitehorse City Council was a member of the following groups and organisations during 2007/08

ORGANISATION	TOTAL (EX-GST)
Alternative Technology Association	$182
Aged and Community Care Victoria	$5,455
Australian Human Resources Institute	$600
Australian Institute of Training and Development	$250
Australian Performing Arts Centre	$377
Australian Psychological Society	$405
Community Child Care Association (FDC)	$330
Community Business Centres Victoria	$227
Family Day Care Inc	$507
Early Childhood Australia Inc	$373
Economic Development Association of Victoria	$1,382
International Society of Arboriculture	$674
Kindergarten Parents Victoria	$280
Local Government Professionals (LGPro)	$1,500
Local Government Finance Professionals	$436
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	$46,907
Municipal Works Officers Association (MWOA)	$250
Museums Australia	$189
National Disability Services	$591
Parks and Leisure Australia	$393
Print Council of Australia	$77
Property Council of Australia	$4,327
Public Health Association of Australia	$605
Risk Management Institution	$280
Tax Ed (Financial)	$723
DX Mail	$4,212
Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI)	$8,068
Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres	$900
Victorian Aquatic Industry Council Inc	$182
VicSport	$250
Volunteering Victoria Inc (Council)	$91
Waste Management Association of Australia	$550
TOTAL	**$81,573**

Donations and Grants

MEETING SPACE

Whitehorse Council provided discounted support to the following groups throughout the year:

Aglow Australia – Melbourne
Alkira Centre
A-Muse Theatre Group
Animal Asia Foundation Australia Ltd
Arts Nunawading Inc
Australian Children's Choir
Australian Quilters Association
Australian Wood Turning Exhibition
Babirra Music Theatre Inc
Balwyn/Box Hill Group/Australian Breastfeeding Association
Bear In Mind
Bennettswood Neighbourhood House
Better Hearing Australia (Vic) Inc
Blackburn South Tennis Club
Box Hill City Band
Box Hill AA Group
Box Hill Art Group
Box Hill Athletic Club Inc
Box Hill Ballet Association Inc
Box Hill Chinese Senior Citizens Club
Box Hill Chorale Society Inc
Box Hill Citizens Advice Bureau
Box Hill Clayworkers
Box Hill Cricket Club Inc
Box Hill Hand Spinners and Weavers
Box Hill Historical Society Inc
Box Hill Horticultural Society and Floral Art Group
Box Hill Hospital Volunteer Services (auspiced by Box Hill Hospital)
Box Hill Institute of TAFE
Box Hill Life Drawing
Box Hill South Preschool Centre Inc
Brotherhood Karyas Olympou
Cake Decorators Association of Victoria
Camp Icthus
Cantorian Cymreig Victoria Welsh Choir
Ceramics Victoria
Cerebral Palsy Education Centre Inc
Chinese Health Foundation of Australia
Choral Institute Melbourne (CHIME) Inc
Circolo Pensionati Italiani - Nunawading
City of Whitehorse Band
Civic Celebrants Graduate Association Inc
Combined Probus Club of Whitehorse Inc
Communities Council on Ethnic Issues Inc
Compass Care
Contemporary Women Painters
Cypriot Community Eastern Suburbs Elderly Citizens
Designer Art Shop Association Inc
East Burwood Football Club
Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club
Eastern Districts Aquarium Society Inc
Eastern Emergency Relief Network Inc
Eastern Palliative Care Association Inc
Eastern Suburbs Scale Modelling Club Inc
Emmaus College
Floral Art Society of Victoria
Forest Hill Ladies Probus Club Inc
Greek and Cypriots Elderly Citizen's Club of Whitehorse and District
Greek Language School
Hand Tool Preservation Association of Australia Incorporated
Hovercraft Club of Victoria
Independent Senior Citizens Club of Nunawading
Interchange Inner East
Katrina Preschool Association Inc
Knitting for the Needy
Koonung Cottage Community House Inc
Koonung Secondary College
Ladies Probus Club of Nunawading Inc
Ladies Probus Club Vermont South Inc
Linc Whitehorse Inc
Lions Club Boroondara Central (incorporating Bennettswood Lions Club) Op Shop in Whitehorse
Lions Club of Box Hill
Lions Den Opportunity Shop
Louise Multicultural Community Centre
Maroondah Singers Inc
Marquetry Society of Victoria Inc
MECWA Community Care
Melbourne Ai-Yue Melbourne Choir Inc (and ladies association)
Melbourne Audio Club
Melbourne Chinese Choir
Melbourne Numismatic Society Inc
Melbourne Push Hands Club
Melbourne Taiwan Ladies Association
Migrant Information Centre
Mont Albert Auskick
Mont Albert Primary School (School Ball Coordinator)
Morris Register of Victoria Inc
Nadrasca
Needlework and Tapestry Guild of Victoria Inc

Nova Music Theatre Inc

Nunawading and District Auxiliary of the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital

Nunawading Community Gardens Inc

Nunawading Hungarian Senior Citizens' Club Inc

Nunawading Swimming Club

Ong Chen Ru Art Charity Foundation

Orana Opportunity Shop (auspiced by Uniting Church of Australia)

Orchid Species Society of Vic

Order of Australian Association

Oxford Houses Australia (Addiction Recovery Centres)

Papermakers of Victoria Inc

Parkside Pre-school Inc

Perwira Inc
(The Indonesian Society of Victoria)

Pipe Bands Victoria

Probus Association of Victoria

Probus Club of Forest Hill

Probus Club of Mitcham

Probus Club of Mitcham Orchards

Probus Club of Nunawading

Reach Out for Kids

Regional Extended Family Services

Resilient Kids - Wesley Mission

Road Trauma Support Team

Roberts McCubbin Primary School

Rotary Club of Box Hill - Art Show

Rotary Club of Mont Albert
and Surrey Hills

Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria Bulb Group

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)

Russian Senior Citizens Club

Scope Vic Ltd

Senior Citizens of the Greek Community of Forest Hill

Spiritual Assembly of the Bahais

St Andrew Greek Orthodox Youth Group (auspiced by Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Australia)

Surrey Hills Primary School Parent's Association

Taiwan Business Association Melbourne

Taiwanese Women's Dancing Club

Tarot Guild of Australia Inc.

The Boite (Surrey Music Café)

University of the Third Age

Vermont Cancer Research Fundraiser

Vermont Floral Art Group

Vermont Garden Club Inc.

Vermont Primary School

Victorian Highland Pipe Band Assoc Inc.

Wesley Do Care Eastern (auspiced by Wesley Mission Melbourne)

Whitehorse Bicycle Advisory Committee

Whitehorse Boroondara Community Radio

Whitehorse Community Health

Whitehorse Cyclists

Whitehorse Film Society

Whitehorse Friends for Reconciliation Inc.

Whitehorse Orchestra Inc.

Whitehorse Showtime (auspiced by The Scout Association of Australia)

Whitehorse Toastmasters

Whitehorse/Box Hill National Seniors Association

Yooralla Society

Community Grants

The following community groups and individuals received a grant from Council during the year.

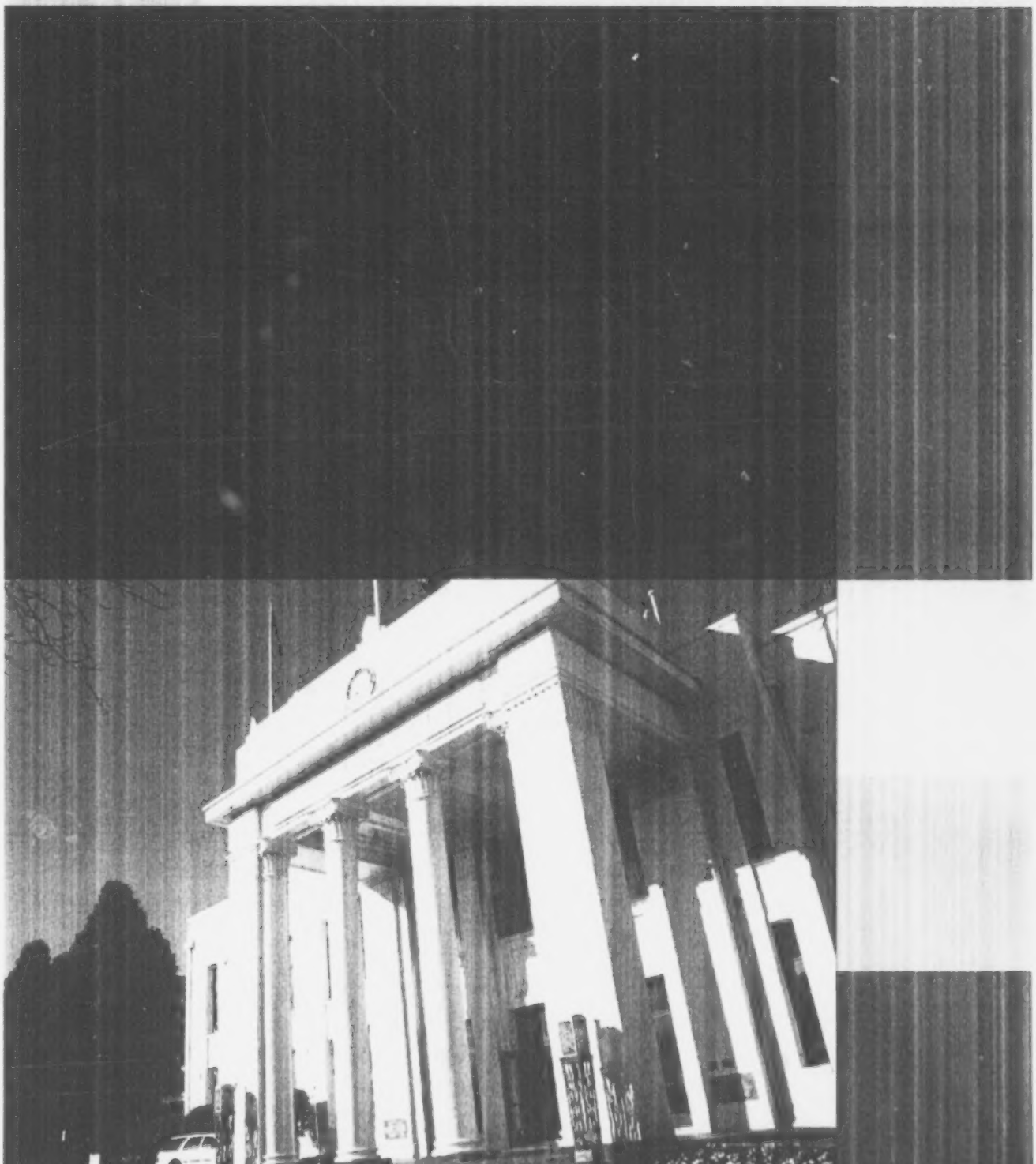
GROUP	GRANT OR DONATION
Avenue Neighbourhood House Inc.	$25,900
Bennettswood Neighbourhood House Inc.	$20,500
Box Hill South Neighbourhood House	$20,500
Burwood Neighbourhood House Inc.	$20,500
Clota Cottage Neighbourhood House	$20,500
Family Access Network Inc.	$26,500
Kerrimuir Neighbourhood House Inc.	$20,500
Koonung Cottage Community House	$20,500
Mitcham Community House	$25,900
Louise Multicultural Centre	$18,200
Reach Out For Kids Foundation	$137,200
Regional Extended Family Services (Youth Adult Bureau)	$39,000
Vermont South Community House	$25,900
Whitehorse Pre School Association	$23,700
10/13th Box Hill Scout Group	$140
Acacia Youth Group (auspiced - Uniting Church of Australia)	$1650
Alpha Autism Inc.	$4200
Anglicare Victoria	$1000
Australian Breastfeeding Association - Blackburn Mitcham/Balwyn Box Hill	$1500
Benwerrin Preschool Association	$500
Bonnie Babes Foundation	$1000
Bor Community Association of Australia	$2000
Box Hill Citizens Advice Bureau	$7500
Box Hill City Band Inc.	$1000
Box Hill District Guides	$1000
Box Hill Greek Elderly Citizens	$500
Box Hill Historical Society Inc.	$950
Box Hill Hospital Cancer Support Group	$350
Box Hill Italian Senior Citizens Club Inc.	$500
Box Hill Little Athletics Centre	$375
Box Hill South Pre School Centre Inc.	$1000
Box Hill Wesley Calisthenics Club	$500
Buckanbe Park Advisory	$2000
Cambodian Community Welfare Centre Inc.	$2000
Chinese Gambling Concern Inc.	$7000
Chinese Health Foundation of Australia	$3500
Circolo Anziani of Whitehorse Club Ltd	$1000
Circolo Pensionati Italiani - Nunawading	$1000
Citizens of Whitehorse Community Chest Inc.	$10,000
City of Whitehorse Band	$2000
Communication Resource Centre - Scope	$6000
Communities Council on Ethnic Issues Inc.	$2000
Cypriot Community Eastern Suburbs Elderly Citizens	$1000
East Burwood Centre Inc.	$47,172
East Victorian Highland Dancing Association	$500
Eastern Community Legal Centre Inc.	$13,250
Eastern Emergency Relief Network Inc.	$5000
Eastern Palliative Care Association Inc.	$6000
Eastern Polio Support Group Incorporated	$650
Eastern Suburbs Photographic Society Inc.	$1000
Eastern Volunteer Resource Centre Inc.	$11,240
Greek and Cypriots Elderly Citizen's Club of Whitehorse and District.	$1000
Heatherdale Brownie Bear Girl Guides	$500
Heatherdale Girl Guides	$1000
Independent Senior Citizens Club of Nunawading	$1000
Indra Pre-School Association Inc.	$100
Inner East Community Health Service (Eastern Drug & Alcohol Service)	$2195
Jasmine Dance Group	$480
Lao Australian Welfare Association	$1000
Life Activities Club Whitehorse Inc.	$1500

GROUP	GRANT OR DONATION
Lions Club of South Vermont Inc.	$1500
Louise Multicultural Community Centre	$3200
Mang-Non Vietnamese Language School Association Inc	$300
Maroondah Singers Inc	$650
Melbourne Ai-Yue Melbourne Choir Inc.	$500
Migrant Information Centre	$3380
Mitcham Baptist Playgroup	$800
Mitcham Community House Inc.	$11,000
Mitcham Girls' Brigade, 22nd Victoria	$500
Mitcham Legacy Widows Club	$500
Mitcham Theatre Group	$1000
Mitcham War Widows and Widowed Mothers	$500
Mt Pleasant Uniting Church Elderly Day Care Centre	$300
Mullum Mullum Festival Inc.	$2000
Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place	$2000
Nadrasca	$3860
Neighbourhood Watch Area WHS038	$300
Neighbourhood Watch Inc Region 4 Division 2 WHS 008	$400
Neighbourhood Watch Region 4 Division 2 WHS017 & WHS018	$800
Nieuw Holland Social Club Inc.	$1000
Nunawading Hungarian Senior Citizens' Club Inc	$1000
Nunawading Pipe Band Inc.	$2000
Nunawading Toy Library Inc.	$5000
Parkside Pre-school Inc.	$784
Probus Club of Blackburn Central Inc.	$400
Richmond Fellowship Victoria	$8400
Russian Senior Citizens Club	$500
Senior Citizens of the Greek Community of Forest Hill	$1000
St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Elderly Citizens Club	$1000
St Augustine's Anglican Kindergarten Inc.	$150
St Clares Seniors	$250
St Francis Xavier Autumn Friendship Club	$250
St Vincent de Paul Society Inc Vic Mitcham Conference	$500
Strathdon Community	$600
The Avenue Neighbourhood House	$3250
U 3 A Nunawading Inc.	$1000
Victorian Hua Xin Chinese Women's Association	$5000
Wheelchair Sports Victoria	$4700
Whitehorse Community Church Inc.	$2000
Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project	$1000
Whitehorse Cyclists	$420
Whitehorse Friends for Reconciliation Inc.	$2600
Whitehorse Historical Society	$3500
Whitehorse Integrated Holiday Program Inc.	$18,000
Whitehorse Men's Shed	$5000
Whitehorse Older Persons' Action Group Inc.	$1000
Whitehorse Orchestra Inc.	$1550
Whitehorse Showtime	$500
TOTAL	**$707,896**

Special Grants made after the Grant Process	
Greek Fire Appeal	$2,000
Nunawading Greek Elderly Citizens	$600
Nunawading Uniting Church	$500
One Community Church	$500
State Emergency Service	$15,455
TOTAL	**$19,055**
Other Donations	$4925
Sporting Donations	**$1700**
Total Grants and Donations	**$733,576**

SECTION FOUR

Financials



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Understanding Our Financial Report

The Financial Report is one of Council's key reports to the community. It shows how Council performed financially during the 2007-08 financial year and the overall position at the end of the financial year (30 June 2008).

Council's Financial Report is presented in accordance with the Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards, and therefore particular terms required by the Standards may not be familiar to some readers. Furthermore, as Council is a 'not for profit' organisation, some of the generally recognised terms used in private sector company reports are not appropriate to Council's reports.

Council is committed to accountability, and it is in this context that this simple guide has been developed to assist readers understand and analyse the financial report.

WHAT IS CONTAINED IN THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT?

Council's financial report has two main sections: the Report and the Notes. There are four Statements and 41 Notes. These are prepared by Council's staff, examined by Council's Audit Committee and by Council itself, and then audited by the Victorian Auditor-General.

The four Statements included in the first few pages of the report are the:

- Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Changes in Equity
- Cash Flow Statement

Notes to these Statements explain Council's accounting policies and how values contained in these Statements were calculated.

INCOME STATEMENT

The Income Statement shows:

- Sources of Council's Revenue under various income headings
- Expenses incurred in running the Council during the year

These expenses relate only to the 'Operations' and do not include the cost associated with the purchase or building of assets. While asset purchase costs are not included in the Expenses there is an item for 'Depreciation'. This value is the value of the assets consumed during the year. The key figure to look at is the Net result for the reporting period which is the equivalent to the profit or (loss) of Council for the year. A positive result means that the revenues were greater than expenses.

BALANCE SHEET

This is the most important of the financial statements. This one page summary is a snapshot of Council's financial situation as at 30 June. It shows what the Council owns as Assets and what it owes as Liabilities. The bottom line of this Statement is Net Assets. This is the net worth of Council, which has been built up over many years. The assets and liabilities are separated into Current and Non-current. Current means those assets or liabilities, which will fall due in the next 12 months. The components of the Balance Sheet are described below.

CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT ASSETS

- Cash assets include cash and investments, i.e. cash held in the bank and in petty cash, and the market value of Council's investments.
- Receivables are monies owed to Council by Ratepayers and other service users.
- Accrued income represents revenue due to Council, which had not been received.
- Prepayments reflect accounts which have been prepaid.
- Inventories represent Council's stock of merchandise and fuels.
- Investments in associates represent the value of Council's ownership and investment in the Whitehorse-Manningham Regional Library Corporation, Regional Landfill Clayton South and Narre Warren User Group.
- Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment is the largest component of Council's worth and represents the value of all the land, buildings, roads, vehicles, equipment, etc. which has been built up by Council over many years.

CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

- Payables are monies owed to creditors by Council as at 30 June.
- Trust funds represent monies held in Trust by Council.
- Income in advance represents revenue received by Council, which relates to future periods, e.g. prepaid leisure centre fees.
- Employee benefits is the accounting term for accrued Annual Leave and Long Service Leave entitlements.
- Interest-bearing liabilities represent the loan borrowings held by Council.

NET ASSETS

This term is used to describe the difference between the value of Total Assets and the value of Total Liabilities.

It represents the net worth of Council as at 30 June. The Net Assets of Council is also synonymous with the Total Equity of Council.

EQUITY

This is the term used to describe the components of Net Assets. These components are:

- Accumulated surplus - the value of all net assets accumulated over time.
- Asset revaluation reserve – the difference between the previously recorded value of assets and their current valuations.
- Other reserves - allocations of the accumulated surplus for specific purposes.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

During the course of the year the value of total Equity as set out in the Statement of Financial Position changes. This statement shows the values of such changes and how these changes arose. The main reasons for a change in equity stem from:

- "Profit or loss" from operations, described in the statement as result for the year.
- Revaluation of the assets - this takes place every two years in accordance with Council policy. It also occurs when existing assets are "taken up" in Council's financial records for the first time.
- Transfer of monies to or from Council's reserves.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

The Cash Flow Statement summarises Council's cash payments and cash receipts for the year. This Statement is presented according to a very specific Accounting Standard and requires careful analysis.

The values may differ from those shown in the Income Statement because the Income Statement is prepared on an accrual accounting basis. Cash in this Statement refers to Bank Deposits and other forms of highly liquid investments that can readily be converted to cash, such as cash invested with Fund Managers.

Council's cash arises from, and is used in, three main areas:

Cash Flows from Operating Activities:

- Receipts. All cash received into Council's bank account from ratepayers and others who owed money to Council. Receipts also include the interest earnings from Council's cash investments. It does not include the proceeds associated with the sale of assets.
- Payments. All cash paid by Council from its bank account to staff, creditors and other persons. It does not include the payments associated with the creation of assets.

Cash Flows from Investing Activities:

The accounting term, Investing Activities relates to assets such as new capital plant and other long-term revenue-producing assets. This part of the statement includes all payments associated with the creation of assets and proceeds associated with the sale of assets.

Cash Flows from Financing Activities:

This part of the statement is where the receipt and repayment of borrowed funds are recorded. The bottom line of the Cash Flow Statement is the Cash at End of Financial Year. This shows the capacity of Council to meet its debts and other liabilities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The Notes are a very important and informative section of the report. The Australian Accounting Standards are not prescriptive in relation to much detail. Therefore, to enable the reader to understand the basis on which the values shown in the Statements are established, it is necessary to provide an explanation of Council's accounting policies. These are described in Note 1.

Apart from the accounting policies, the Notes also give details behind many of the summary figures contained in the Statements.

The Note numbers are shown beside the relevant items in the Income Statement, Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement. Where Council wishes to disclose other information, which cannot be incorporated into the Statements, this is shown in the Notes. The Notes include the cost of the various functions of Council, the break down of expenses, revenues, reserves and other assets, transactions with persons related to Council and financial ratios (performance indicators).

The Notes should be read at the same time as, and together with, the other parts of the Financial Report to get a clear picture of Council's financial performance and position.

STATEMENTS BY PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND COUNCILLORS

The Certification by the Principal Accounting Officer is made by the person responsible for the preparation of the financial report. It certifies that in their opinion, the report has met all the statutory and professional reporting requirements.

The Certification of Councillors is made by two Councillors on behalf of Council that, in their opinion, the financial report is presented fairly and is not misleading or inaccurate.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

The Auditor-General's Report is the external and independent opinion on the Financial Report. It provides the reader with a totally independent opinion on the financial report and the information it contains. The opinion covers both the statutory and professional requirements and also the Fairness aspects of the financial report.

INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

REVENUE	NOTE	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Rates and charges	1(c),2	59,792	55,371
Grants and Subsidies	1(c),3	21,395	19,106
User Charges	1(c),4	31,853	28,687
Contributions	1(c),5	766	304
Interest	6	3,773	3,662
Other Revenue	7	935	857
Total Revenue		**118,514**	**107,987**
Expenses			
Employee Costs	8	48,818	44,711
Materials and Contracts	9	40,437	37,750
Depreciation	10	21,368	23,178
Other Expenses	11	6,749	6,593
Total Expenses		**117,372**	**112,232**
Total Revenue less Total Expenses		1,142	(4,245)
Net gain on sales of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	12	(119)	303
Developers Contributions	13	467	187
Share of net profits (losses) of associates accounted for by equity method	1(k),14,20	(124)	(272)
Surplus (deficit) for the period		**1,366**	**(4,027)**

The above income statement should be read with the accompanying notes.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2008

	NOTE	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalent	15	62,757	58,776
Receivables	16	7,398	6,445
Assets held for sale	17	16,748	-
Other	18	722	1,277
Total Current Assets		**87,625**	**66,498**
Non-Current Assets			
Receivables	19	442	522
Investments in associates	20	8,287	8,411
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	21	1,586,354	1,581,027
Intangibles	22	-	1,118
Total Non-Current Assets		**1,595,083**	**1,591,078**
Total Assets		**1,682,708**	**1,657,576**
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	23	23,569	20,837
Employee benefits	24	9,078	8,530
Interest Bearing Loans & Borrowings	26	199	-
Total Current Liabilities		**32,846**	**29,367**
Non-Current Liabilities			
Interest Bearing Loans & Borrowings	26	2,801	-
Employee benefits	25	1,084	1,125
Total Non-Current Liabilities		**3,885**	**1,125**
Total Liabilities		**36,731**	**30,492**
Net Assets		**1,645,977**	**1,627,084**
Represented By			
Accumulated surplus	27(a)	654,006	648,016
Asset Revaluation Reserve	27(b)	961,832	944,305
Other Reserves	27(c)	30,139	34,763
Total Equity		**1,645,977**	**1,627,084**

The above balance sheet should be read with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	NOTE	TOTAL	TOTAL	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	ASSET REVALUTION RESERVE	ASSET REVALUTION RESERVE	OTHER RESERVES	OTHER RESERVES
		2008 $'000	2007 $'000	2008 $'000	2007 $'000	2008 $'000	2007 $'000	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,627,084	1,488,415	648,016	647,973	944,305	801,897	34,763	38,545
Result for the year	27(a)	1,366	(4,027)	1,366	(4,027)	-	-	-	-
Correction of an error	20(a)	-	288	-	288	-	-	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment(decrement)	27(b)	17,527	142,408	-	-	17,527	142,408	-	-
Transfers to other reserves	27(a)	(6,498)	(5,640)	(937)	(929)	-	-	(5,561)	(4,711)
Transfers from other reserves	27(a)	6,498	5,640	5,561	4,711	-	-	937	929
Balance at end of the financial year		**1,645,977**	**1,627,084**	**654,006**	**648,016**	**961,832**	**944,305**	**30,139**	**34,763**

The above statement of changes in equity should be read with the accompanying notes.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	NOTE	2008 INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) $'000	2007 INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) $'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Payments			
Employee costs		(48,016)	(44,474)
Materials and contracts (inclusive of GST)		(41,109)	(41,152)
Other expenses (inclusive of GST)		(7,404)	(7,937)
Receipts			
Rates and charges		59,732	55,306
Grants and subsidies (inclusive of GST)		23,278	20,147
User charges (inclusive of GST)		32,632	30,137
Interest		3,773	3,662
Other revenue (inclusive of GST)		978	2,195
Net GST Refund/(Payment)		3,988	3,450
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**28**	**27,852**	**21,334**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from:			
Repayment of loans and advances		6	16
Sale of property, plant and equipment (inclusive of GST)		1,200	1,708
Payments for			
Property, plant and equipment (inclusive of GST)		(28,077)	(24,770)
Net cash (used in) investing activities		**(26,871)**	**(23,046)**
Cash flows from financing activities			
Proceeds from borrowings		3,000	-
Net cash provided by (used) financing activities		**3,000**	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		3,981	(1,712)
Cash at beginning of the financial year		58,776	60,488
Cash at end of the financial year	**15**	**62,757**	**58,776**
Financing arrangements	29		
Restrictions on cash assets	30		

The above cash flow statement should be read with the accompanying notes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

INTRODUCTION

This financial report is a general purpose financial report that consists of an Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, and notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the Local Government Act 1989, and the Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2004.

NOTE 1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

This financial report has been prepared on an accrual and going concern basis. The financial report has also been prepared under the historical cost convention except where specifically stated in Notes 1(g), 1(i), and 1(k). Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

All entities and funds through which Council controls resources to carry on its functions have been included in the financial report. In the process of reporting on Council as a single entity, all transactions and balances between the funds have been eliminated. In addition, all intra-entity transactions have been eliminated.

(b) Change in Accounting Policies

There was no change in accounting policies.

(c) Revenue Recognition

Rates, Grants and Contributions

Rates, grants and contributions (including developer contributions) are recognised as revenues when the Council obtains control over the assets comprising these receipts.

Control over assets acquired from rates is obtained at the commencement of the rating year as it is an enforceable debt linked to the rateable property or, where earlier, upon receipt of the rates. A provision for doubtful debts on rates has not been established as unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold.

Control over granted assets is normally obtained upon their receipt (or acquittal) or upon earlier notification that a grant has been secured, and are valued at their fair value at the date of transfer.

Income is recognised when Council obtains control of the contribution or the right to receive the contribution, it is probable that the economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to the Council and the amount of the contribution can be measured reliably.

Where grants or contributions recognised as revenues during the financial year were obtained on condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period and those conditions were undischarged at balance date, the unused grant or contribution is disclosed in note 3. The note also discloses the amount of unused grant or contribution from prior years that was expended on Council's operations during the current year.

A liability is recognised in respect of revenue that is reciprocal in nature to the extent that the requisite service has not been provided at balance date.

User Charges, Fees and Fines

User charges, fees and fines (including parking fees and fines) are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever first occurs.

A provision for doubtful debts is recognised when collection in full is no longer probable.

Sale of Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has irrevocably passed to the buyer.

Interest and Rents

Interest and rents are recognised as revenue when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever first occurs.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

(d) Depreciation and Amortisation of Non-Current Assets

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, heritage assets, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Hostel bed licences are non-amortised intangible assets due to their indefinite lives. Land has been recognised as nondepreciable assets. Non-depreciable assets are recorded in the asset classes of Land, Land Improvements and Art Collection.

As part of Council's revaluation program an assessment of useful lives was undertaken and the useful life for Road Seals and Buildings have been extended. The adjusted lives were applied from 1 July 2007. The changes to useful lives are included in the table below. A review of useful lives of the Drainage assets was undertaken which resulted in an extension. The changes will take effect from 1 July 2008. The estimated impact on depreciation expenses for 2007/08 and 2008/09 is summarised below.

CHANGE IN USEFUL LIVES ESTIMATES	2006/07 YRS	2007/08 YRS	2008/09 YRS	INCREASE YRS
Road Seals - Asphalt	25	30		5
Road Seals - Spray	15	20		5
Buildings	50	70		20
Drainage -pits		75	100	25
Drainage-pipes		80	100	20

CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES	2006/07 $	2007/08 $	2008/09 $	ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCREASE/ DECREASE IN DEPRECIATION EXPENSES
Road Seals	6,067	3,924	-	(2,143)
Buildings	4,424	4,430	-	6
Drainage	-	2,071	1,666	(405)
Total	**10,491**	**10,425**	**1,666**	

The range of depreciation rates used for each class of asset are as follows :

Class	Rate
Plant	5.00% - 50.00%
Buildings	1.00% - 3.00%
Furniture and Equipment	5.00% - 35.00%
Roads	0.89% - 10.00%
Drainage	1.00% - 2.00%
Land Improvements	0.00% - 20.00%
Other Structures	2.00% - 50.00%
Art Collection	0.00% - 1.00%

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(e) Repairs and Maintenance

Routine maintenance, repair costs, and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. Where the repair relates to thereplacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated.

The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

(f) Finance Costs

Finance costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred, except where they are capitalised as part of a qualifying asset constructed by Council. Except where specific borrowings are obtained for the purpose of specific asset acquisition, the weighted average interest rate applicable to borrowings at balance date, excluding borrowings associated with superannuation, is used to determine the borrowing costs to be capitalised. Finance costs include interest on bank overdrafts, interest on borrowings, and finance lease charges.

(g) Recognition and Measurement of Assets

Acquisitions

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the amount for which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

Recognition

The following classes of assets have been recognised in Note 21. In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits below have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year:

Class of Assets	$
Land	Nil
Buildings	Nil
Plant	200
Footpaths	5,000
Kerb and Channel	5,000
Other Road Assets	5,000
Road Surface	5,000
Road Substructure	5,000
Drainage	5,000
Land Improvements	1,000
Other Structures	1,000
Art Collection	Nil
Work In Progress	Nil
Hostel Bed Licences	Nil

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(g) Recognition and Measurement of Assets (continued)

Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets (other than Plant and Equipment, Other Structures, Land Improvements and Art Collection), including Land, Buildings, Roads and Streets and Drainage are measured at fair value, being the amount for which the assets could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arms length transaction. At balance date, Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets within land, buildings and infrastructure to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value the respective class of asset was revalued.

In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation (either by experienced council officers or independent experts) of land, buildings and infrastructure assets on a regular basis, usually at intervals of two or three years.

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that an increment reverses a prior year decrement for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense in which case the increment is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense. Revaluation decrements are recognised as an expense except where prior increments are included in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset in which case the decrement is taken to the reserve to the extent of the remaining increments. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increments and decrements within the year are offset.

(h) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

(i) Other Financial Assets

Managed funds are valued at fair value, being market value, at balance date. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.

(j) Investments

Investments, other than investments in associates, are measured at cost.

(k) Accounting for Investments in Associates

Council's investment in associates is accounted for by the equity method as the Council has the ability to influence rather than control the operations of the entities. The investment is initially recorded at the cost of acquisition and adjusted thereafter for postacquisition changes in the Council's share of the net assets of the entities. The Council's share of the financial result of the entities is recognised in the income statement and changes arising from revaluation of property, plant and equipment are recognised directly in equity.

(l) Tender Deposits

Amounts received as tender deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as Trust funds until they are returned or forfeited (refer to note 23).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(m) Employee Benefits

Wages and Salaries

Liabilities for wages and salaries and rostered days off are recognised and are measured as the amount unpaid at balance date and include appropriate oncosts such as workcover charges.

Annual Leave and Maternity Leave

Annual leave entitlements are accrued on a pro rata basis in respect of services provided by employees up to balance date. Maternity leave entitlements of fourteen weeks leave are payable after a qualifying period of twelve months worked time. These entitlements are measured at the amount expected to be paid, including appropriate oncosts, when the accrued obligation is settled. Annual leave expected to be paid later than one year has been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for these accrued entitlements. Commonwealth bond rates are used for discounting future cash flows.

Long Service Leave

Long service leave entitlements payable are assessed at balance date having regard to expected employee remuneration rates on settlement, employment related oncosts and other factors including accumulated years of employment, on settlement, and experience of employee departure per year of service. Long service leave expected to be paid within 12 months is measured at nominal value based on the amount expected to be paid when settled. Long service leave expected to be paid later than one year has been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for these accrued entitlements. Commonwealth bond rates are used for discounting future cash flows.

Classification of Employee Benefits

An employee benefit liability is classified as a current liability if the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the period. This would include all annual leave and unconditional long service leave entitlements.

Superannuation

A liability is recognised in respect of Council's present obligation to meet the unfunded obligations of defined benefit superannuation schemes to which its employees are members. The liability is defined as the Council's share of the scheme's unfunded position, being the difference between the present value of employees' accrued benefits and the net market value of the scheme's assets at balance date. The liability also includes applicable contributions tax of 15%. The superannuation expense for the reporting year is the amount of the statutory contribution the Council makes to the superannuation plan which provides benefits to its employees. Details of these arrangements are recorded in note 34(c).

(n) Allocation Between Current and Non-Current

In the determination of whether an asset or liability is current or non-current, consideration is given to the time when each asset or liability is expected to be settled. The asset or liability is classified as current if it is expected to be settled within the next twelve months, being the Council's operational cycle. In accordance with AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, Council has recognised as current liability, long service leave which it does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(o) Leases

Operating Leases

Lease payments for operating leases are recognised as an expense in the years in which they are incurred as this reflects the pattern of benefits derived by the Council.

(p) Agreements Equally Proportionately Unperformed

The Council does not recognise assets and liabilities arising from agreements that are equally proportionately unperformed in the statement of financial position. Such agreements are recognised on an 'as incurred' basis.

(q) Web Site Costs

Costs in relation to web sites are charged as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

(r) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses, and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

The amount of GST recoverable from and payable to, the ATO is included as a current asset and liability in the balance sheet.

Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis.

(s) Rounding

Unless otherwise stated, amounts in the financial report have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

(t) Hostel and Independent Living Unit Contributions

Council operates two community hostels and elderly person independent living units where residents may be required to make an entry contribution. Under the terms of the Occupancy Agreements, such contributions are refundable when the resident terminates their occupation, less amounts accrued as income to Council over the period of occupancy. The total of contributions refundable as at balance date is shown as a current Note 23(a). Refer also note 23(b) for details of all amounts held in trust.

(u) Budget Information

Amounts shown in the financial report as budget information have been disclosed for information purposes only. Where necessary, budget information has been recast to comply with current presentation requirements. The budget figures have been drawn from Council's budget approved at the time the rates were adopted by Council for the 2007/2008 year.

(v) Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

(w) Non-current Assets Held for Sale

A non-current asset held for sale is measured at the lower of its carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell.

(x) Inventories

Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential. Other inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(y) New Accounting Standards interpretation

The following Australian Accounting Standards have been issued or amended and are applicable to the Council but are not yet effective. They have not been adopted in preparation of the financial statements at reporting date.

AASB AMENDMENT	STANDARDS AFFECTED	OUTLINE OF AMENDMENT	APPLICATION DATE OF STANDARD	APPLICATION DATE FOR COUNCIL
AASB 2006-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards	AAS 27 Financial Reporting by Local Governments AASB 1045 Land Under Roads Amendments to AAS 27A, AAS 29A and AAS 31A	From the beginning of the reporting period to which this Standard is first applied, until the end of the first reporting period ending on or after 31 December 2007, transitional provisions shall apply. Under those provisions, local governments, while encouraged to apply the full provisions of this Standard, may elect instead not to recognise land under roads as an asset in the balance sheet .	October 2006	1-Jul-08
AASB 1004 Contributions	AAS 27 Financial Reporting by Local Governments	As this Standard broadly reproduces the requirements relating to contributions contained in AAS 27, there will be no direct impact on the financial report.	1-Jul-08	1-Jul-08
AASB 1051 Land Under Roads	AAS 27 Financial Reporting by Local Governments	In respect to land under roads acquired before 30 June 2008, allows a Council to elect to recognise or not to recognise an asset; requires any adjustment upon recognition to be made against accumulated surplus; requires a Council to disclose its accounting policy; allows a Council to elect to adopt the fair value or a previous revaluation; requires any above elections to be made effective as at 1 July 2008. Requires that land under roads acquired after 30 June 2008 is accounted for in accordance with AASB 116. The impact of any changes that may be required cannot be reliably estimated and is not disclosed in the financial report.	1-Jul-08	1-Jul-08
AASB 1052 Disaggregated Disclosures	AAS 27 Financial Reporting by Local Governments	As this Standard broadly reproduces the requirements relating to disaggregated disclosures contained in AAS 27, there will be no direct impact on the financial report.	1-Jul-08	1-Jul-08
AASB 2007-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Review of AASs 27, 29 and 31	AAS 27 Financial Reporting by Local Governments Amendments to: AASB 3, AASB 5, AASB 8, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 116, AASB 127, AASB 137	As this Standard broadly reproduces the requirements relating to certain relevant requirements contained in AAS 27, there will be no direct impact on the financial report.	1-Jul-08	1-Jul-08

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 2 RATES

Council uses Capital Improved Value (CIV), representing the value of land and buildings, as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2007/2008 was:

General Rate $25,888,077,400 ($25,682,152,400 in 2006/2007)

Recreational Rate $40,569,000 ($40,588,000 in 2006/2007)

The 2007/08 rate in the dollar of general rate assessments was 0.22931 cents of each dollar of CIV (0.20906 cents in 2006/07).

The total quantum of 'in-lieu of rates' levies on recreational assessments was $27,472 in 2007/08 ($25,443 in 2006/07).

The date of the previous general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2006, and the valuation first applied to the rating period commencing 1 July 2006.

The date of the latest general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2008, and the valuation will be first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2008.

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Commercial	5,986	5,404
Industrial	2,486	2,265
Residential	50,919	47,400
Supplementary	401	302
Total	**59,792**	**55,371**

NOTE 3 GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES

(a) Grants were received in respect of the following :

Business Development	50	11
Victoria Grants Commission - Roads	660	631
Victoria Grants Commission	3,414	3,660
Purchasing & Tendering	16	-
Recreation, Parks / Leisure Planning	48	74
Child Care Centres	1,501	1,084
Community Care	6,617	6,064
OPSACS	418	375
Hostels	1,761	1,698
Maternal and Child Health	703	1,328
Family Support and Counselling	177	69
Family Day Care	806	775
Arts & Culture	9	15
School Crossing Subsidies	216	222
Health and Environment	222	156
Infrastructure	589	339
Grants and Subsidies	17,207	16,501
Capital Grants	4,188	2,605
Grants and Subsidies	**21,395**	**19,106**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 3 GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (CONTINUED)

(b) Type of grants

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Recurrent	17,595	17,247
Non-recurrent	3,800	1,859
Total	**21,395**	**19,106**

(c) Conditions on Grants

There are no grants recognised as revenue during the current, or the 2006/2007 reporting years, which had not been expended in the manner specified by the grantor at the reporting date.

Grants recognised as revenue during the year that were obtained on the condition that they be expended in a specified manner that had not occurred at balance date were:

Roads	-	46
Community health	168	7
Family Youth & Children	55	-
Park planning	300	50
Arts and recreation	12	32
City Development	197	50
Total	**732**	**185**

NOTE 4 USER CHARGES

Family Youth and Children	3,611	3,186
Community Care	3,363	3,193
Traffic and Local Laws	3,881	4,189
Active Leisure Centres	7,247	7,070
Waste and Recycling Service	8,061	5,352
Other Fees and Charges	5,690	5,697
Total User Charges	**31,853**	**28,687**

NOTE 5 CONTRIBUTIONS

Resident / User Contributions	98	12
Contributions from Sporting Clubs	668	292
Total Contributions	**766**	**304**

NOTE 6 INTEREST

Interest earned from rates	251	219
Interest earned from cash assets	3,522	3,443
Total interest	**3,773**	**3,662**

NOTE 7 OTHER REVENUE

Utilities recovered	56	56
Donation - RSL	100	-
Other cost recovery income	779	801
Total Other Revenue	**935**	**857**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 8 EMPLOYEE COSTS

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Wages and salaries	42,041	38,355
Superannuation	4,904	4,380
Fringe benefits tax	408	391
Staff Development	671	665
Workcover	794	920
Total Employee Costs	**48,818**	**44,711**

NOTE 9 MATERIALS AND CONTRACTS

Waste and Recycling	11,997	10,257
Engineering and Infrastructure	6,933	6,652
Office and Administration	7,893	7,270
Community Care	3,142	3,249
Family, Youth and Children	2,208	2,223
Parks and Horticulture	3,106	2,933
Leisure Services	3,273	3,198
Statutory, Planning, Building, Local Laws	1,885	1,968
Total Materials and Contracts	**40,437**	**37,750**

NOTE 10 DEPRECIATION

Depreciation was charged in respect of :		
Buildings	4,430	4,424
Plant	1,103	1,121
Furniture and equipment	2,992	2,607
Roads, footpaths, kerb and channel (Note 1(d))	7,466	9,696
Drainage	2,071	2,064
Land improvements	1,849	1,769
Other structures	1,435	1,477
Art Collection	22	20
Total Depreciation	**21,368**	**23,178**

NOTE 11 OTHER EXPENSES

External audit services	56	49
Internal audit costs	82	77
Bad and doubtful debts	213	8
Rental expenses relating to operating leases and equipment hire	192	167
Metropolitan Fire Brigade Levy	1,803	1,732
Library contribution	3,245	3,092
Community grants	589	601
Other expenses	569	867
Total Other Expenses	**6,749**	**6,593**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 12 NET GAIN (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Gain and loss on sale of assets		
Land		
Proceeds from sales of Right of way	80	373
Gain/(loss) on sale of land	80	373
Plant		
Proceeds from sale of assets	1,062	1,134
Written down value of assets sold	(1,261)	(1,204)
Gain/(loss) on sale of plant and equipment	(199)	(70)
Total		
Proceeds from sale of assets	1,142	1,507
Written down value of fixed assets sold (Note 20(c))	(1,261)	(1,204)
Total Gain/(loss) on sale of assets	**(119)**	**303**

NOTE 13 DEVELOPERS CONTRIBUTIONS

Developers Contributions - Drainage	**467**	**187**

NOTE 14 INVESTMENT IN ASSOCIATES

Share of Net profit/(Loss)- Regional Landfill Clayton South (see Note 20(a))	98	73
Share of net profit/(loss) - Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation (see Note 20(b))	(259)	(163)
Share of net profit/(loss)-Narre Warren User Group (NWUG) (see Note 20(c))	37	(182)
Total share of net profits/(loss) from investment in associates	**(124)**	**(272)**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 15 CURRENT ASSETS - CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Cash at bank & On hand	5,664	4,212
Term Deposits	55,419	1,167
Managed Funds	1,674	53,397
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	**62,757**	**58,776**
Unrestricted	50,732	46,323
Subject to external restrictions	12,025	12,453
	62,757	**58,776**
The following restrictions have been imposed by regulations or other externally imposed requirements:		
Long Service Leave as per Local Government (LSL) Regulations 2002	5,157	5,147
Public Open Space Contributions	1,698	1,617
Aged Hostels/Units Reserves	-	86
Hostel/Unit accommodation resident contributions	5,136	5,569
Car Parking in Lieu Contributions	34	34
Total Investments Subject to External Restrictions	**12,025**	**12,453**

NOTE 16 CURRENT ASSETS - RECEIVABLES

Secured		
Rates debtors	1,396	1,335
Loans and advances (Note 19)	5	6
Less - Provision for doubtful debts	(2)	(2)
Total Secured	**1,399**	**1,339**
Unsecured		
Loan and advances	54	54
Other debtors	7,394	6,277
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	(1,449)	(1,225)
Total Unsecured	**5,999**	**5,106**
Total Current Assets- Receivables	**7,398**	**6,445**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 16 CURRENT ASSETS - RECEIVABLES (CONTINUED)

Current receivables are carried at nominal amounts due, less any provision for doubtful debts. A provision for doubtful debts is recognised when collection of the full nominal amount is no longer probable.

Loans and Advances

Security over loans and advances made in respect of sporting and other community groups is held in the form of executed loan agreements which give Council access to the groups' assets upon default. Community loan debtors have a maximum maturity of 15 years and are charged interest at the indicative interest rate applicable at the time of negotiating the loan which currently range between 0% and 6% (0% to 6% in 2006/2007).

Rates Debtors

Rates debtors relate to the charge apportioned against the property and are secured under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1989. Rates are collected either by quarterly instalment or a single payment basis. 45.3% of rates are collected via equal instalments (43.8% in 2006/2007) , due on the statutory due dates of 30 September, 30 November, 28 February and 31 May. 54.7% of rates are collected via payments due on 15 February (56.2% in 2006/2007). Interest is charged on overdue rates at 12% (11% in 2006/2007). The amount of overdue rates upon which interest is being charged as at the reporting date is $1,158,523 ($1,095,961 in 2006/2007).

Other Debtors

Other debtors and amounts due to Council for the provision of services require payment within 30 days. Council may charge interest on debts outstanding calculated on an individual basis.

NOTE 17 CURRENT ASSETS - ASSETS HELD FOR SALE (SEE NOTE 38)

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Land & Buildings	14,933	-
Property Plant & Equipment	697	-
Bed Licenses	1,118	-
Total	**16,748**	**-**

NOTE 18 CURRENT ASSETS - OTHER

Stores and materials	125	113
Nursery Plant Stock	126	157
Prepayments	471	1,007
Total Current Assets – Other	**722**	**1,277**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 19 NON-CURRENT ASSETS - RECEIVABLES

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Secured		
Loans and advances	99	104
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	(52)	(55)
	47	**49**
Unsecured		
Loans and advances related to Resident Funded Schemes	395	473
	442	**522**
Community Loans outstanding as at 30 June		
Includes current and non-current component		
Blackburn Cycling Club	2	4
Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club (Formerly Nunawading Youth Club)	102	104
Whitehorse Pioneers Sporting Club	-	2
Total Community Loans	**104**	**110**
The disclosure of the above amounts in the Financial Statements is as follows:		
Community Loans (Excluding provision for doubtful debts)		
Current (Note 16)	5	6
Non-Current (Note 18)	99	104
	104	**110**

NOTE 20 NON-CURRENT ASSETS - INVESTMENT IN ASSOCIATES

At Valuation:		
(a) Interest in Regional Landfill Clayton South	3,055	2,957
(b) Interest in Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation	4,563	4,822
(c) Interest in Narre Warren User Group	669	632
Total Non-Current Assets – Investment in Associates	**8,287**	**8,411**

Valuations

Valuations of investments described in this note are on the basis of Council's relevant share of each entity's net assets.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 20 NON-CURRENT ASSETS - INVESTMENT IN ASSOCIATES
(a) INTEREST IN CLAYTON SOUTH LANDFILL

Council holds an interest of 14.12% in a Clayton South Landfill site, whose principal activity is the provision of a refuse disposal site for member Councils.

Correction of an error - Changes in accounting treatement

Changes in accounting treatment for capital expenditure resulted in the 2007/08 comparative figures to be restated. Council's total investment in associates increased by $2.239m, accumulated surplus increased by $0.976m and asset revaluation reserve increased by $1.263m for 2006/07.

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit):		
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at start of year	1,663	1,302
Correction of an error	-	288
Reported surplus/(deficit) for year	98	73
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at end of year	**1,761**	**1,663**
Council's share of reserves:		
Council's share of reserves at start of year	1,294	31
Revaluation increment (decrement)	-	1,263
Council's share of reserves at end of year	**1,294**	**1,294**
Movement in carrying value of specific investment:		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	2,957	1,333
Correction of an error	-	288
Share of surplus/(deficit) for year	98	1,336
Carrying value of investment at end of year	**3,055**	**2,957**
Share of Regional Landfill Clayton South:		
Current assets	326	429
Non-current assets	2,838	2,796
Total assets	**3,163**	**3,225**
Current liabilities	38	200
Non-current liabilities	70	68
Total liabilities	**108**	**268**
Net assets	**3,055**	**2,957**
Revenue	593	202
Expenses	(495)	(129)
Operating surplus/(deficit) after distributions	**98**	**73**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 20 NON-CURRENT ASSETS - INVESTMENT IN ASSOCIATES (CONTINUED)
(b) INTEREST IN WHITEHORSE MANNINGHAM REGIONAL LIBRARY CORPORATION

On 21 December 1995 Council's library operation was combined with the Regional Authority to form Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation. Council has a 60% interest (as per funding responsibilities) and a 70.10% (2006/07, 69.30% adjusted from previously reported 73%) economic entitlement in the assets in the Corporation but does not have effective control, as both Whitehorse and Manningham Councils possess the same voting rights on the board of management. The principal activity of the Corporation is the lending of books and other materials. The Corporation is established by agreement between the two participating councils. The valuation has been based on information derived from the unaudited financial report of the Corporation for the year ended 30 June 2008 together with adjustments based on the audited results for 30 June 2007.

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit):		
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at start of year	2,801	2,964
Reconciling item from audited results	(1)	-
Change in share of economic entitlement	(111)	-
Reported surplus/(deficit) for year	(65)	(163)
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at end of year	**2,624**	**2,801**
Council's share of reserves:		
Council's share of reserves at start of year	2,021	2,021
Reconciling item from audited results	-	-
Change in share of economic entitlement	(82)	-
Council's share of reserves at end of year	**2,021**	**2,021**
Movement in carrying value of specific investment:		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	4,822	4,985
Reconciling item from audited results	(1)	-
Change in share of economic entitlement	(193)	-
Share of surplus/(deficit) for year	(65)	(163)
Carrying value of investment at end of year	**4,563**	**4,822**
Share of Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library		
Current assets	1,365	1,246
Non-current assets	4,457	4,809
Total assets	**5,822**	**6,055**
Current liabilities	1,142	1,117
Non-current liabilities	117	116
Total liabilities	**1,259**	**1,233**
Net assets	**4,563**	**4,822**
Revenue	5,271	5,173
Expenses	(5,336)	(5,336)
Operating surplus/(deficit) after distributions	**(65)**	**(163)**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 20 NON-CURRENT ASSETS- INVESTMENT IN ASSOCIATES (CONTINUED)
(c) INTEREST IN NARRE WARREN USER GROUP

In 2007 Council has an interest 48.88% in Narre Warren User Group. The principal activity of NWUG is to monitor the closed regional landfill that was previously used by the Council. Contributions by Council to the Group during the period totalled $nil ($nil in 2007/2008).

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Movement in carrying value of NWUG:		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	632	575
Transfer from ERWMG	-	239
Share of profit/(loss) for year	37	(182)
Carrying value of investment at end of year	669	632
Total Interest	**669**	**632**

NOTE 21 NON-CURRENT ASSETS - PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

(a)	**PROPERTY**		
	LAND		
	Land at fair value, based on:		
	Council valuation as at 30 June 2007 (i)	908,304	915,144
	At cost	4,805	-
	Total fair value of Land at year end	**913,109**	**915,144**
	BUILDINGS		
	Buildings at fair value, based on:		
	Council valuation as at 30 June 2007 (ii)	285,067	300,971
	Less: Accumulated depreciation	(111,821)	(115,269)
	Total	**173,246**	**185,702**
	At cost	2,236	-
	Less: Accumulated depreciation	(2)	-
	Total	**2,234**	**-**
	Total fair value of Buildings at year end	**175,480**	**185,702**
	TOTAL PROPERTY	**1,088,589**	**1,100,846**

(i) The 30 June 2007 valuation of land is a fair value review and was determined by Council's Property and Rates Manager Mr Greg Stevens AAPI, Certified Practising Valuer. It should be noted that properties with special use or recreational zonings have attracted a land value discount within the range of 15% to 25%.

(ii) The 30 June 2007 valuation of buildings was at current market value and was determined by Council's Property and Rates Manager Mr Greg Stevens AAPI, Certified Practising Valuer.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 21 (a) NON-CURRENT ASSETS- PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
INFRASTRUCTURE		
Roads		
Roads comprise of the following asset categories: substructure, road seals, footpaths, kerb and channel and other road assets		
Road Substructure		
Council valuation as at 30 June 2007 (iii)	125,237	125,236
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(33,610)	(32,496)
Total	**91,627**	**92,740**
At cost	533	-
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1)	-
Total	**532**	**-**
Road Seal		
Council valuation as at 30 June 2007 (iii)	99,421	99,421
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(22,660)	(18,740)
Total	**76,761**	**80,681**
At cost	1,034	-
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(4)	-
Total	**1,030**	**-**
Footpaths		
Council valuation as at 30 June 2007 (iii)	83,485	83,485
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(45,135)	(44,158)
Total	**38,350**	**39,327**
At cost	1,294	-
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1)	-
Total	**1,293**	**-**
Kerb and Channel		
Council valuation as at 30 June 2007 (iii)	81,874	81,874
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(43,614)	(42,664)
Total	**38,260**	**39,210**
At cost	1,325	-
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1)	-
Total	**1,324**	**-**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 21 (a) NON-CURRENT ASSETS- PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Other Road Assets		
Traffic management and laneways		
Council valuation as at 30 June 2007 (iii)	25,886	25,886
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(11,969)	(11,471)
Total	**13,917**	**14,415**
At cost:	390	-
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1)	-
Total	**389**	-
Total road and streets at fair value		
Road at cost (wdv)	4,568	-
Roads at fair value (wdv)	258,915	266,373
Total fair value of Roads, footpaths, kerb and channel at year end	**263,483**	**266,373**
DRAINAGE		
Drainage at fair value, based on:		
Council valuation as at 30 June 2006 (iv)	-	162,956
Council valuation as at 30 June 2008 (iv)	166,632	-
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(65,964)	(80,194)
Total	**100,668**	**82,762**
At cost	-	1,326
Less: Accumulated depreciation	-	(12)
Total	-	**1314**
Total fair value of Drainage at year end	**100,668**	**84,076**
LAND IMPROVEMENTS		
At cost	113,331	112,294
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(18,126)	(16,284)
Total fair value of Land Improvements at year end	**95,205**	**96,010**
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	**459,356**	**446,459**

(iii) The 30 June 2007 valuation of roads is at written down replacement cost, which includes pavement, substructure, kerb and channel, footpaths and traffic management devices was undertaken by Council's Engineer Mr. Ian Goodes Dip CE, Grad Dip Mun. Eng. and Man., MIE Aust, CPEng. It should be noted that in calculating the written down replacement cost of roads that valuations of infrastructure assets are made using a greenfields assumption, that is destruction costs of existing assets and site restoration costs are excluded.

(iv) The 30 June 2006 and 30 June 2008 valuation of drainage at written down replacement cost was undertaken by Council's Engineer Mr Ian Goodes Dip CE, Grad Dip Mun. Eng. and Man., MIE Aust, CPEng. It should be noted that in calculating the written down replacement cost of roads that valuations of infrastructure assets are made using a greenfields assumption, that is destruction costs of existing assets and site restoration costs are excluded.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 21 (a) NON-CURRENT ASSETS: PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
PLANT		
Plant at cost	9,107	8,768
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(2,954)	(2,317)
Total Plant at year end	**6,153**	**6,451**
FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT		
Furniture and Equipment at cost	24,387	23,608
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(11,454)	(9,347)
Total Furniture and Equipment at year end	**12,933**	**14,261**
OTHER STRUCTURES		
Other Structures at cost	13,250	12,783
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(4,331)	(2,902)
Total Other Structures at year end	**8,919**	**9,881**
ART COLLECTION		
Art Collection at cost	2,047	2,030
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(62)	(40)
Total Art Collection at year end	**1,985**	**1,990**
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	**29,990**	**32,583**
Works in Progress		
At cost	8,419	1,139
TOTAL PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	**1,586,354**	**1,581,027**

NOTE 21 (b) NON-CURRENT ASSETS - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE

2008	Balance at beginning of financial year $'000	Acquisition/ Recognised assets $'000	Revaluation increments (decrements) $'000	Depreciation and amortisation $'000	Written down value of disposals $'000	Transfers In $'000	Transfers Out $'000	Balance at end of financial year $'000
Property								
Land	915,144	4,805	-	-	-	-	(6,840)	913,109
Total Land	915,144	4,805	-	-	-	-	(6,840)	913,109
Buildings	185,701	2,202	-	(4,430)	-	100	(8,093)	175,480
Total buildings	185,701	2,202	-	(4,430)	-	100	(8,093)	175,480
Total property	**1,100,845**	**7,007**	**-**	**(4,430)**	**-**	**100**	**(14,933)**	**1,088,589**
Plant and Equipment								
Plant, machinery and equipment	6,451	2,098	-	(1,103)	(1,261)	16	(48)	6,153
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	14,261	2,236	-	(2,992)	-	-	(572)	12,933
Art collection	1,990	17	-	(22)	-	-	-	1,985
Other - structures	9,881	470	-	(1,435)	-	31	(28)	8,919
Total plant and equipment	32,583	4,821	-	(5,552)	(1,261)	47	(648)	29,990
Infrastructure								
Roads	266,374	4,238	-	(7,466)	-	337	-	263,483
Drainage	84,076	1,136	17,527	(2,071)	-	-	-	100,668
Land improvements	96,010	1,349	-	(1,849)	-	41	(346)	95,205
Total infrastructure	**446,460**	**6,723**	**17,527**	**(11,386)**	**-**	**378**	**(346)**	**459,356**
Works in progress								
Buildings	655	7,591	-	-	-	-	(100)	8,146
Roads	22	22	-	-	-	-	(22)	22
Drainage	10	-	-	-	-	-	(10)	-
Land improvements	434	78	-	-	-	-	(416)	96
Other structures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Art Collection	-	65	-	-	-	-	-	65
Land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture & equipment	18	90	-	-	-	-	(18)	90
Total works in progress	**1,139**	**7,846**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(566)**	**8,419**
Total property, plant and equipment and infrastructure	**1,581,027**	**26,397**	**17,527**	**(21,368)**	**(1,261)**	**525**	**(16,493)**	**1,586,354**

NOTE 21 (c) NON-CURRENT ASSETS - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE

2007	Balance at beginning of financial year $'000	Acquisition/ Recognised assets $'000	Revaluation increments (decrements) $'000	Depreciation and amortisation $'000	Written down value of disposals $'000	Impairment losses recognised in profit or loss $'000	Transfers In $'000	Transfers Out $'000	Balance at end of financial year $'000
Property									
Land	795,836	-	116,398	-	-	-	2910	-	915,144
Total Land	795,836	-	116,398	-	-	-	2910	-	915,144
Buildings	117,319	-	59,530	(4,425)	-	-	13,277	-	185,701
Total buildings	117,319	-	59,530	(4,425)	-	-	13,277	-	185,701
Total property	**913,155**	**-**	**175,928**	**(4,425)**	**-**	**-**	**16,187**	**-**	**1,100,845**
Plant and Equipment									
Plant, machinery and equipment	5,982	-	-	(1,121)	(1,204)	-	2,794	-	6,451
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	13,481	-	-	(2,606)	-	-	3,386	-	14,261
Art collection	1,923	-	-	(20)	-	-	87	-	1,990
Other - structures	10,176	-	-	(1,476)	-	-	1,181	-	9,881
Total plant and equipment	**31,562**	**-**	**-**	**(5,223)**	**(1,204)**	**-**	**7,448**	**-**	**32,583**
Infrastructure									
Roads	307,185	-	(34,783)	(9,696)	-	-	3,668	-	266,374
Drainage	85,665	187	-	(2,064)	-	-	288	-	84,076
Land improvements	95,799	-	-	(1,770)	-	-	2,370	(389)	96,010
Total infrastructure	**488,649**	**187**	**(34,783)**	**(13,530)**	**-**	**-**	**6,326**	**(389)**	**446,460**
Works in progress									
Buildings	2,642	8,708	-	-	-	-	-	(10,695)	655
Roads	30	3,660	-	-	-	-	-	(3,668)	22
Drainage	10	288	-	-	-	-	-	(288)	10
Land improvements	328	2,477	-	-	-	-	-	(2,371)	434
Other structures	10	1,170	-	-	-	-	-	(1,180)	-
Plant	1	2,792	-	-	-	-	-	(2,793)	-
Art Collection	-	88	-	-	-	-	-	(88)	-
Land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture & equipment	70	3,334	-	-	-	-	-	(3,386)	18
Total works in progress	**3,091**	**22,517**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(24,469)**	**1,139**
Total property, plant and equipment and infrastructure	**1,436,457**	**22,704**	**141,145**	**(23,178)**	**(1,204)**	**-**	**29,961**	**(24,858)**	**1,581,027**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 22 NON- CURRENT ASSETS - INTANGIBLES

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Aged Care Bed Licences		
At deemed cost as at 1 July 2005	-	1,118
Total Non- Current Assets- Intangibles	**-**	**1,118**

NOTE 23 CURRENT LIABILITIES

(a)	**Payables**		
	Trade creditors and accruals	14,421	13,178
	Funds held in Trust:		
	- Primary Care Consortium	606	512
	- NWUG	1,367	-
	- Hostel/Unit accommodation resident contributions (refer Note 23(b))	5,136	5,569
	- Deposits	2,039	1,578
	Total Current Liabilities - Payables	**23,569**	**20,837**
(b)	**Resident Contributions**		
	At balance date, Council held the following amounts (refer Note 23(a)):		
	Resident contributions - Nunawading Community Hostel	2,069	2,589
	Resident contributions - Dorking Road Community Hostel	3,067	2,980
	Total Resident Contributions	**5,136**	**5,569**

NOTE 24 CURRENT LIABILITIES - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Annual leave & Maternity Leave		
Unconditional entitlement within 12 months (nominal value)	3,116	2,922
Unconditional entitlement beyond 12 months (present value)	1,111	1,029
Long service leave		
Unconditional entitlement within 12 months (nominal value)	389	237
Unconditional entitlement beyond 12 months (present value)	4,462	4,342
Total Current Liabilities – Employee Benefits	**9,078**	**8,530**

NOTE 25 NON CURRENT LIABILITIES

Employee Benefits		
Long service leave		
Conditional entitlement beyond 12 months (present value)	1,084	1,125
Total Non-current Liabilities - Employee Benefits	**1,084**	**1,125**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 26 INTEREST-BEARING LOANS AND BORROWINGS

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Current		
Bank Overdraft - secured	-	-
Borrowings - secured	**199**	-
	199	-
Non-Current		
Borrowings - secured	2,801	-
	2,801	-
Total	**3,000**	-
The maturity profile for Council's borrowings is:		
No later than one year	**199**	-
Later than one year and not later than five years	988	-
Later than five years	1,813	-
	3,000	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 27 RESERVES AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

		2008 $'000	2007 $'000
(a)	**Accumulated Surplus**		
	Accumulated Surplus at the beginning of financial year	648,016	647,973
	Net Surplus / (Deficit)	1,366	(4,027)
	Correction of an error	-	288
	Transfers from Reserves	5,518	4,711
	Transfers to Reserves	(894)	(929)
	Accumulated Surplus at end of financial year	**654,006**	**648,016**
(b)	**Asset Revaluation Reserve**		
	Opening Balance	944,305	801,897
	Increment/ (Decrement) on revaluation during year	-	-
	Land	-	116,398
	Building	-	59,530
	Roads	-	(34,783)
	Drainage	17,527	-
	Regional Landfill Clayton South	-	1,263
	Asset Revaluation Reserve at end of financial year	**961,832**	**944,305**

Asset Class	**30 June 2008**	**Movement**	**1 July 2007**
Plant	2,070	-	2,070
Land	690,567	-	690,567
Buildings	109,483	-	109,483
Equipment	737	-	737
Miscellaneous	597	-	597
Roads	103,960	-	103,960
Drainage	38,349	17,527	20,822
Land Improvements	14,077	-	14,077
Other Structures	729	-	729
Regional Landfill Clayton South	1,263	-	1,263
Asset Revaluation by Class	**961,832**	**17,527**	**944,305**

(c)	**Other Reserves**		
	Public Open Space	1,728	1,617
	Car Parking in Lieu	34	34
	Community Hostel – Dorking Road	-	86
	Council Development Reserve	28,374	33,023
	Art Collection	3	3
	Other Reserves at end of financial year	**30,139**	**34,763**
	Public Open Space Reserve		
	Opening Balance	1,617	1,296
	Transfer from Accumulated Surplus	894	929
	Transfer to Accumulated Surplus	(783)	(608)
	Closing Balance	**1,728**	**1,617**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 27 RESERVES AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (CONTINUED)

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Car Parking in Lieu Reserve		
Opening Balance	34	34
Closing Balance	**34**	**34**
Community Hostel – Dorking Road Reserve		
Opening Balance	86	86
Transfer to Accumulated Surplus	(86)	-
Closing Balance	**-**	**86**
Council Development Reserve		
Opening Balance	33,023	37,126
Transfer from Accumulated Surplus	-	-
Transfer to Accumulated Surplus	(4,649)	(4,103)
Closing Balance	**28,374**	**33,023**
Art Collection Reserve		
Closing Balance	**3**	**3**

(i) Asset Revaluation Reserve

This reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets, as described in note 1(g) and 1(k).

(ii) Public Open Space Reserve

This reserve comprises funds collected through contributions made to public open space by developers. The funds from this reserve are restricted for expenditure on public open space.

(iii) Car Parking in Lieu Reserve

This reserve comprises funds provided by developers instead of providing car parking. The funds from this reserve are restricted for expenditure on car parking.

(vi) Art Collection Reserve

This reserve was established by Council in 2002/2003 for the purpose of de-accessioning unwanted artworks and for future purchases of art works.

(iv) Dorking Road Hostel Reserve

This reserve comprises funds that have been set aside in for capital works at the Dorking Road Hostel. It does not represent the deposits held as required under the Aged Care Act 1997.

(v) Council Development Reserve

This reserve is used for funding capital works programs and for proceeds of sale of assets no longer required by Council. Use of the reserve needs to be in accordance with the reserve governing principles established by Council.

(vi) Art Collection Reserve

This reserve was established by Council in 2002/2003 for the purpose of de-accessioning unwanted artworks and for the future purchases of artworks.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 28 RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING RESULT WITH NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	12 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2008 INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) $'000	12 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2007 INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) $'000
Result from ordinary activities	1,366	(4,027)
Depreciation (Note 10)	21,368	23,178
Net gain on disposal of assets (Note 12)	(119)	(303)
Share of net profits (losses) of associates accounted for by equity method (note 14)	124	(272)
Changes in assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/ Decrease in receivables	(1,150)	(652)
(Increase)/ Decrease in other assets	3,025	4,198
Increase/ (Decrease) in employee benefits	507	237
Increase/ (Decrease) in payables	2,731	(1,025)
Net cash provided by operating activities	**27,852**	**21,334**

NOTE 29 FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Bank overdraft	1,100	1,100
Used facilities	-	-
Unused facilities	**1,100**	**1,100**

NOTE 30 RESTRICTED ASSETS

Council has Cash Assets (Note 15) that are subject to restrictions. As at the reporting date, Council had legislative restrictions in relation to employee benefits (Long Service Leave), reserve funds and funds held in Trust.

Restricted Assets	**12,025**	**12,453**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 31 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

(i) Names of persons holding the position of a Responsible Person at the City of Whitehorse during the reporting year are:

Councillors	Peter Allan
	Christopher Aubrey
	Bill Bowie
	Robert Chong
	George Droutsas
	Sharon Ellis
	John Koutras (Mayor from 4 December 2006)
	Hayley Clarke
	Ben Stennett
	Helen Harris
Chief Executive Officer	Noelene Duff

(ii) Remuneration and Retirement Benefit of Responsible Persons (Councillors and Chief Executive Officer)

The number of Responsible Persons, other than Senior Executive Officers, of Council whose total remuneration including any superannuation benefits from Council fell within the following bands, for the financial year.

INCOME RANGE:	2008 NUMBER	2007 NUMBER
$0-$9,999	-	-
$10,000- $19,999	8	8
$20,000- $29,999	1	1
$30,000-$39,999	-	-
$40,000-$49,999	-	1
$50,000-$59,999	1	-
$290,000-$299,999	-	1
$300,000-$309,999	1	-
TOTAL	**11**	**11**

Total remuneration for the reporting year for Responsible Persons included above amount to:	**$527,306**	**$505,564**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 31 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (CONTINUED)

(iii) Remuneration and Retirement Benefit of Senior Executive Officers

A Senior Executive Officer of Council is a person, other than a Responsible Person, occupying a management role within Council who reports to the CEO or a person receiving annual remuneration of $100,000 or greater.

The number of Senior Executive Officers whose total remuneration including superannuation benefits exceeding $100,000, during the financial year, fell within the following bands:

INCOME RANGE:	2008 NUMBER	2007 NUMBER
$90,000-$99,999	2	1
$100,000- $109,999	5	4
$110,000- $119,999	6	5
$120,000-$129,999	3	3
$130,000-$139,999	3	2
$140,000-$149,999	1	-
$150,000-$159,999	-	3
$160,000-$169,999	1	-
$170,000-$179,999	1	1
$180,000-$189,999	2	-
$190,000-$199,999	-	-
$200,000-$209,999	-	1
TOTAL	**24**	**20**

Total actual remuneration for the reporting year for Senior Officers included above amount to:	**$3,053,698**	**$2,327,251**

A number of Senior Executive Officers retired or resigned during the reporting year. This had an impact on the remuneration figures due to the inclusion of annual leave and long services leave entitlements.

(iv) Loans

No loans have been made, guaranteed, or secured by Council to a Responsible Person of Council during the 2007/2008 or 2006/2007 reporting years.

(v) Other Transactions

Other related party transactions requiring disclosure have been considered and there are no matters to report in the 2007/2008 or 2006/2007 reporting years. No retirement benefits have been paid to Responsible Persons in 2007/2008 or 2006/2007 reporting years.

As a local authority with statutory regulatory responsibilities, including the responsibility of issuing permits and approvals, Council receives claims and demands for damages allegedly arising from actions of Council or its officers. Council carries $300 million of professional indemnity insurance and had an excess of $10,000 on this policy in 2007/2008. Therefore, the maximum liability of Council in any single claim is the extent of its excess. The primary insurer is Civic Mutual Plus. There are no instances or claims of which Council is aware which would fall outside the terms of Council's policy.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 32 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

(a) Other Entities/Persons

Council has guaranteed bank loans of certain community bodies. Council's liability under its guarantee is listed below:

	2008 OUTSTANDING LOAN LIABILITY $'000	GUARANTEE LIMIT $'000	2007 OUTSTANDING LOAN LIABILITY $'000	GUARANTEE LIMIT $'000
Vermont Sports Club Inc.	138	210	167	210
Blackburn Sporting Club Inc.	23	80	30	80
Elgar Park Regional Hockey Association (EPRHA)	-	117	29	117
The Whitehorse Club	495	500	500	500
Vermont South Club	311	310	-	-
Bluebell Hill Tennis Club	34	38	-	-
Box Hill Rugby Union Football Club	-	-	-	32
	1,001	**1,255**	**726**	**939**

(b) Arising from Public Liability

As a local authority with ownership of numerous parks, reserves, roads and other land holdings, Council regularly receives claims and demands allegedly arising from incidents which occur on land belonging to Council. There are a number of outstanding claims against Council in this regard. Council carries $400 million of public liability insurance and had an excess of $10,000 on this policy in 2007/2008. Therefore, the maximum liability of Council in any single claim is the extent of its excess. The primary insurer is Civic Mutual Plus. There are no claims of which Council is aware which would fall outside the terms of Council's policy.

(c) Arising from Professional Indemnity

As a local authority with statutory regulatory responsibilities, including the responsibility of issuing permits and approvals, Council receives claims and demands for damages allegedly arising from actions of Council or its officers. Council carries $300 million of professional indemnity insurance and had an excess of $10,000 on this policy in 2007/2008. Therefore, the maximum liability of Council in any single claim is the extent of its excess. The primary insurer is Civic Mutual Plus. There are no instances or claims of which Council is aware which would fall outside the terms of Council's policy.

(d) Arising from Legal Matters

Council is presently involved in several confidential legal matters, which are being conducted through Council's solicitors and are yet to be finalised.

(e) Other Contingent Liabilities

None known as at 30th June 2008 by Council.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 33 COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

		2008 $'000	2007 $'000
(a)	**Commitments for Capital Expenditure**		
	At balance date, Council had entered into contracts for capital expenditure on:		
	Buildings	6,014	1,584
	Other structures	-	1,826
		6,014	**3,410**
	Commitments under contracts at the reporting date are payable as follows (these commitments are not recognised as liabilities):		
	Not later than one year	6,014	3,340
	Later than one year but no later than 5 years	-	70
		6,014	**3,410**
(b)	**Commitments for Operating Activities**		
	External service providers		
	Commitments under contracts at the reporting date are payable as follows (these commitments are not recognised as liabilities):		
	Not later than one year	8,312	9,290
	Later than one year but no later than 5 years	16,178	19,942
	Later than 5 years	-	-
		24,490	**29,232**
(c)	**Operating Lease Commitments**		
	Plant and Equipment & Rentals		
	Commitments under non-cancellable operating leases at the reporting date are payable as follows (these commitments are not recognised as liabilities):		
	Not later than one year	362	179
	Later than one year and not later than 5 years	209	233
		571	**412**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 34 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

		2008 $'000	2007 $'000
(a)	**Employee Benefits**		
	The aggregate employee benefit liability consists of:		
	Accrued salaries and wages	1,201	1,024
	Annual leave / Maternity leave	4,227	3,951
	Long Service Leave	5,935	5,704
	Total	**11,363**	**10,679**
	Representing:		
	Current liabilities		
	Trade creditors and accruals (Note 23)	1,201	1,024
	Employee benefits (Note 24)	9,078	8,530
	Non-current liabilities		
	Employee benefits (Note 25)	1,084	1,125
	Total	**11,363**	**10,679**

(b) Long Service Leave

The following assumptions were adopted in measuring the present value of Long Service Leave

Weighted average increase in employee costs	5.00%	5.00%
Weighted average discount rates	6.01%	5.78%
Weighted average terms to settlement period	6 years	6 years

(c) SUPERANNUATION : Local Authorities Superannuation Fund

Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). Obligations for contributions are recognised as an expense in profit or loss when they are due.

The Fund has two categories of membership, each of which is funded differently. The Fund's Defined Benefit Plan is a multi-employer sponsored plan. This fund was closed to new members from 31 December 1993. As the Fund's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated by employer, the Actuary is unable to reliably allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers. As provided under Paragraph 32 (b) of AASB 119, Council does not use defined benefit accounting for these contributions.

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (9% required under Commonwealth Superannuation Guarantee Legislation). No further liability accrues to the employer as the superannuation benefits accruing to employees are represented by their share of the net assets of the Fund. From 1 July 2008 employers are required to pay superannuation guarantee contributions based on Ordinary Times Earnings (OTE) which may put upward pressure on contribution levels.

The Fund's Defined Benefit Plan is a multi-employer sponsored plan. This fund was closed to new members from 31 December 1993. As the Fund's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated by employer, the Actuary is unable to reliably allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers. As provided under Paragraph 32 (b) of AASB 119, Council does not use defined benefit accounting for these contributions.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 34 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

Council makes employer contributions to the defined benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund's Actuary. On the basis of the results of the most recent full actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund's actuary as at 31 December 2005, the Trustee has determined that the current funding arrangements are adequate for the expected Defined Benefit Plan liabilities. Council makes the following contributions:-

- 9.25% of members' salaries (same as previous year);
- the difference between resignation and retrenchment benefits paid to its retrenched employees (same as previous year).

The total Fund's liability for accrued benefits was determined in the 30 June 2007 pursuant to the requirements of Australian Accounting Standard AAS25 as follows:

VISION SUPER TOTAL FUND BALANCE	30-JUN-07 $'000
Net Market Value of Assets	4,102,154
Accrued Benefits (per accounting standards)	3,923,436
Difference between Assets and Accrued Benefits	178,718
Total Fund Vested Benefits	**3,572,589**

The Accrued Benefits liability has been determined by the Actuary at 30 June 2007 outside of the full actuarial review which is normally undertaken every three years and most recently performed as at 31 December 2005. The next full actuarial review is due on the 31 December 2008. This liability is calculated to satisfy the requirements of AAS 25 and is not reflected in the audited financial statements of the Fund at 30 June 2007. The financial assumptions used to calculate the Accrued Benefits for the defined benefit category of the Fund were:

Net Investment Return	8.0% p.a.
Salary Inflation	5.5% p.a.
Price Inflation	3.0% p.a.

Details of contributions to the superannuation fund during the year and contributions payable at 30 June 2008 are as follows:

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
FUND		
Defined benefit plans		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Fund (Vision Super)	701	768
	701	**768**
Accumulation funds		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	2,260	2,156
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (AMP)	21	15
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Hesta)	102	57
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (CBus)	13	4
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Other)	218	118
	2,614	**2,350**

Local Authorities Superannuation fund acts as a clearing house for employer contributions to other Super funds.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 35 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Accounting Policy, terms and conditions

Recognised financial instruments	Accounting Policy	Terms and Conditions
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	Cash on hand and at bank and money market call account are valued at face value	On call deposits returned a floating interest rate of between 6.05% to 7.15% (5.55% to 6.05% in 2006/2007). The interest rate at balance date was 7.15% (6.05% in 2006/2007).
	Interest is recognised as it accrues.	Funds returned fixed interest rate of between 6.43% to 8.21% (6.02% to 6.43% in 2006/2007)
	Investments and bills are valued at cost.	Managed fund provided return of between 4.63% to 7.43% (6.56% to 6.75% in 2006/2007) excluding unrealised gains/losses
	Investments are held to maximise interest returns of surplus cash.	
	Interest revenues are recognised as they accrue.	
	Managed funds are measured at market value.	
Trade and other receivables		
Other debtors	Receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method. A provision for doubtful debts is recognised when there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has occurred. Collectibility of overdue accounts is assessed on an ongoing basis.	General debtors are unsecured and arrears attract an interest rate of 12% (11% in 2006/2007). Credit terms are based on 30 days.
Financial Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services provided to Council as at balance date whether or not invoices have been received.	General Creditors are unsecured, not subject to interest charges and are normally settled within 30 days of invoice date.
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	Loans are carried at their principal amounts, which represent the present value of future cash flows associated with servicing the debt. Interest is accrued over the period it becomes due and recognised as part of payables.	Borrowings are secured by way of mortgages over the general rates of the Council. The weighted average interest rate on borrowings is 8.49% during 2007/2008 (n/a in 2006/2007). The loan was drawn down on 30 June 2008 and therefore no interest charges were incurred during the year.
Bank overdraft	Overdrafts are recognised at the principal amount. Interest is charged as an expense as it accrues.	The overdraft is subject to annual review. It is secured by a mortgage over Council's general rates and is repayable on demand. The interest rate on available overdraft facility was 11.62% during 2007/2008 (9.95% in 2006/2007). The interest rate as at balance date was 11.62%.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 35 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

(b) Interest Rate Risk

The exposure to interest rate risk and the effective interest rates of financial assets and financial liabilities, both recognised and unrecognised, at balance date are as follows:

2008	FIXED INTEREST MATURING IN:					
	FLOATING INTEREST RATE	1 YEAR OR LESS	OVER 1 TO 5 YEARS	MORE THAN 5 YEARS	NON-INTEREST BEARING	TOTAL
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Financial assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	7,338	55,419	-	-	-	62,757
Trade and other receivables	-	7,398	-	-	-	7,398
Total financial assets	**7,338**	**62,817**				**70,155**
Weighted average interest rate	6.67%	7.82%				
Financial liabilities						
Trade and other payables	-	-	-	-	14,421	14,421
Trust funds and deposits	-	-	-	-	9,148	9,148
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	-	199	988	1,813	-	3,000
Total financial liabilities		**199**	**988**	**1,813**	**23,569**	**26,569**
Weighted average interest rate		8.49%	8.49%	8.49%		
Net financial assets (liabilities)	**7,338**	**62,618**	**(988)**	**(1,813)**	**(23,569)**	**43,586**

2007	FIXED INTEREST MATURING IN:					
	FLOATING INTEREST RATE	1 YEAR OR LESS	OVER 1 TO 5 YEARS	MORE THAN 5 YEARS	NON-INTEREST BEARING	TOTAL
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Financial assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	57,609	1,167	-	-	-	58,776
Trade and other receivables	-	-	-	-	6,445	6,445
Total financial assets	**57,609**	**1,167**	**-**	**-**	**6,445**	**65,221**
Weighted average interest rate	5.95%	6.66%				
Financial liabilities						
Trade and other payables	-	-	-	-	13,178	13,178
Trust funds and deposits	-	-	-	-	7,659	7,659
Total financial liabilities	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**20,837**	**20,837**
Net financial assets (liabilities)	**57,609**	**1,167**	**-**	**-**	**(14,392)**	**44,384**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 35 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

(a) Net Fair Values

The aggregate net fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities, both recognised and unrecognised, at balance date are as follows

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS	TOTAL CARRYING AMOUNT AS PER			
	Balance Sheet		Aggregate net fair value	
	2008 $'000	2007 $'000	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Financial assets				
Cash	5,646	4,212	5,646	4,212
Deposits at Call	57,111	54,564	57,111	54,564
Current Receivables	7,398	6,445	7,398	6,445
Non- Current Receivables	442	522	442	468
Total financial assets	**70,597**	**65,743**	**70,597**	**65,689**
Financial liabilities				
Trade and other payables	23,571	20,837	23,571	20,837
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	3,000	-	3,000	-
Total financial liabilities	**26,571**	**20,837**	**26,571**	**20,837**

(b) Credit Risk

The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance date in relation to each class of recognised financial asset is represented by the carrying amount of those assets as indicated in the Balance Sheet

(c) Risks and mitigation

The risks associated with our main financial instruments and our policies for minimising these risks are detailed below

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of our financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposures to market risk are primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk. Components of market risk to which we are exposed are discussed below

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Interest rate risk arises from interest bearing financial assets and liabilities that we use. Non derivative interest bearing assets are predominantly short term liquid assets. Our interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes us to fair value interest rate risk.

Our loan borrowings are sourced from major Australian banks by a tender process. Finance leases are sourced from major Australian financial institutions. Overdrafts are arranged with major Australian banks. We manage interest rate risk on our net debt portfolio by:

- ensuring access to diverse sources of funding
- reducing risks of refinancing by managing in accordance with target maturity profiles; and
- setting prudential limits on interest repayments as a percentage of rate revenue

We manage the interest rate exposure on our debt portfolio by appropriate budgeting strategies and obtaining approval for borrowings from the Department of Planning and Community Development each year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 35 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the Local Government Act 1989. We manage interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- conformity with State and Federal regulations and standards
- capital protection,
- appropriate liquidity,
- diversification by credit rating, financial institution and investment product
- monitoring of return on investment,
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget

Maturity will be staggered to provide for interest rate variations and to minimise interest rate risk.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause us to make a financial loss. We have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in our balance sheet. To help manage this risk:

- we may require collateral where appropriate; and
- we only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in our investment policy

Trade and other receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the consumer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the Council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is the Victorian Government. Apart from the Victorian Government we do not have any significant credit risk exposure to a single customer or groups of customers. Ongoing credit evaluation is performed on the financia condition of our customers and, where appropriate, an allowance for doubtful debts is raised.

We may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when we provide a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in note 32.

MOVEMENT IN PROVISIONS FOR DOUBTFUL DEBTS	2008 $'000
Balance at the beginning of the year	48
New Provisions recognised during the year	46
Amounts already provided for and written off as uncollectible	(20)
Amounts provided for but recovered during the year	
Balance at end of year	**74**

Ageing of Trade and Other Receivables

At balance date other debtors representing financial assets were past due but not impaired. These amounts relate to a numbe of independent customers for whom there is no recent history of default. The ageing of the Council's Trade & Other Receivables was:

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Current (not yet due)	3,369	466
Past due by up to 30 days	109	2,188
Past due between 31 and 180 days	283	451
Past due between 181 and 365 days	3	4
Past due by more than 1 year	8	4
Total Trade & Other Receivables	**3,772**	**3,114**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 35 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

Ageing of individually impaired Trade and Other Receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of $73,757 (2007: $48,012) were impaired. The amount of the provision raised against these debtors was $73,757 (2007: $48,012). The individually impaired debtors relate to general and sundry debtor and have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amount have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

The ageing of Trade and Other Receivables that have been individually determined as impaired at reporting date was:

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Current (not yet due)	-	-
Past due by up to 30 days	-	-
Past due between 31 and 180 days	9	12
Past due between 181 and 365 days	3	6
Past due by more than 1 year	62	30
Total Trade & Other Receivables	**74**	**48**

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of our operational liquidity requirements:

- we will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction on the date
- we will be forced to sell financial assets at a value which is less than what they are worth; or
- we may be unable to settle or recover a financial assets at all

To help reduce these risks we:

- have a liquidity policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained
- have readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place
- have a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- set limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue

The Councils exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 35 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

The table below lists the contractual maturities for Financial Liabilities

These amounts represent undiscounted gross payments including both principal and interest amounts

2008	6 MTHS OR LESS $'000	6-12 MONTHS $'000	1-2 YEARS $'000	2-5 YEARS $'000	>5 YEARS $'000	CONTRACTED CASH FLOW $'000	CARRYING AMOUNT $'000
Trade and other payables	14,421	-	-	-	-	14,421	14,421
Trust funds and deposits	9,148	-	-	-	-	9,148	9,148
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	223	223	446	1,338	2,231	4,461	4,461
Total financial liabilities	**23,792**	**223**	**446**	**1,338**	**2,231**	**28,030**	**28,030**

2007	6 MTHS OR LESS $'000	6-12 MONTHS $'000	1-2 YEARS $'000	2-5 YEARS $'000	>5 YEARS $'000	CONTRACTED CASH FLOW $'000	CARRYING AMOUNT $'000
Trade and other payables	13,178	-	-	-	-	13,178	13,178
Trust funds and deposits	7,659	-	-	-	-	7,659	7,659
Total financial liabilities	**20,837**	-	-	-	-	**20,837**	**20,837**

(d) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, the Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months (Base rates are sourced from the Reserve Bank Australia).

- A parallel shift of + 1% and -1% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 7.4%

The table below discloses the impact on net operating result and equity for each category of financial instruments held by the Council at year-end, if the above movements were to occur.

		INTEREST RATE RISK			
MARKET RISK EXPOSURE	CARRYING AMOUNT SUBJECT TO INTEREST	-1% 100 basis points		-1% 100 basis points	
		PROFIT	EQUITY	PROFIT	EQUITY
2008	**$'000**	**$'000**	**$'000**	**$'000**	**$'000**
Financial assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	62,757	(628)	(628)	628	628
Trade and other receivables	7,840	-	-	-	78
Financial liabilities:					
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	4,461	-	-	-	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 36 RECONCILIATION BETWEEN RATE DETERMINATION SURPLUS AND OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)

The difference between the Rate Determination Surplus of $8.619m (2006/2007 $3.267m surplus) and the Operating surplus of $1.366m (2006/2007 $4.027m deficit) is explained as follows:

	2008 $'000	2008 $'000	2007 $'000	2007 $'000
Carried forward Rate Determination Surplus/(Deficit)		8,619		3,267
Less Brought forward Rate Determination Surplus/(Deficit)		3,267		1,156
Surplus/(Deficit) as determined under the Rates basis		5,352		2,111
Plus:				
Expenditure on Fixed Assets capitalised	25,930		22,518	
Asset Recognition - Drains/Roads	467		187	
Share of net profits of associates accounted for by equity method	(124)		-	
Transfers to Reserves	894		929	
		27,167		23,634
		32,519		25,745
Less:				
Transfers from Reserves	5,518		4,712	
Loan Proceeds	3,000		-	
Share of net losses of associates accounted for by equity method	-		272	
Carrying value of Fixed Assets disposed	1261		1,594	
Loan Principal receipts	6		16	
Depreciation on Fixed Assets (Note 10)	21,368		23,178	
		31,153		29,772
Increase / (Decrease) in net assets		**1,366**		**(4,027)**

NOTE 37 REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

	2008 $'000	2007 $'000
Remuneration for audit of financial reports – Victorian Auditor-General's Office	56	49
Remuneration for internal auditors - RSM Bird Cameron	82	72
	138	**121**

NOTE 38 EVENTS OCCURING AFTER BALANCE DATE

In July 2008 Council entered into contracts to sell the two Aged Care Facilities known as Dorking Road Hostel and Nunawading Community Hostel on a "going concern" basis for $17.65m. Deposit monies of $600,000 was received on the 9 July 2008 and settlement of the transaction is to occur in October 2008 subject to Commonwealth Government approval. The agreement includes an agreed commercial financial settlement, intention and commitment to provide community outcomes including aging in place and maintenance of bed licences within the municipality. In the 2007/2008 Financial Statements the written down value of these assets ($16.75m) has been reclassified current assets held for sale (refer note 17) and a provision of $1.5m has been recognised for employee redundancies in current liabilities (refer note 23 (a) payables).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 39 AGED RESIDENTIAL CARE

INCOME STATEMENT FOR COUNCIL'S AGED RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES
For the Year Ended 30 June 2008

	NUNAWADING HOSTEL 2008	FORTY DORKING ROAD HOSTEL 2008	TOTAL 2008	NUNAWADING HOSTEL 2007	FORTY DORKING ROAD HOSTEL 2007	TOTAL 2007
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Revenue						
Grants & Subsidies	1,015	745	1,760	946	752	1,698
User Charges	765	738	1,503	723	687	1,410
Interest Revenue	124	184	308	142	176	318
Other Revenue	1	-	1	-	1	1
Total Revenue	**1,905**	**1,667**	**3,572**	**1,811**	**1,616**	**3,427**
Expenses from Ordinary Activities						
Employee Benefits Expense	2,239	1,476	3,715	1,625	1,368	2,993
Materials, Services & Contracts	333	391	724	643	403	1,046
Utilities	60	70	130	66	68	134
Direct/Indirect Overheads	81	81	162	73	73	146
Depreciation	159	231	390	205	160	365
Total Expenses	**2,872**	**2,249**	**5,121**	**2,612**	**2,072**	**4,684**
Net Loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	-	-	-	(5)	(27)	(32)
Surplus (deficit) for the period	**(967)**	**(582)**	**(1,549)**	**(806)**	**(483)**	**(1,289)**

Note : This disclosure is required to qualify for CAP funding for residential care facilities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 39 AGED RESIDENTIAL CARE (CONTINUED)

BALANCE SHEET FOR COUNCIL'S AGED RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES
as at 30 June 2008

	NUNAWADING HOSTEL 2008 $'000	FORTY DORKING ROAD HOSTEL 2008 $'000	TOTAL 2008 $'000	NUNAWADING HOSTEL 2007 $'000	FORTY DORKING ROAD HOSTEL 2007 $'000	TOTAL 2007 $'000
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Receivables	6	1	7	1	1	2
Total Current Assets	**6**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**1**	**2**
Non-Current Assets						
Property, building, equipment, furniture and fittings & other structures	7,428	8,202	15,630	7,529	8,434	15,963
Intangible assets	609	509	1,118	609	509	1,118
Investments	2,069	3,067	5,136	2,589	2,980	5,569
Total Non-Current Assets	**10,106**	**11,778**	**21,884**	**10,727**	**11,923**	**22,650**
TOTAL ASSETS	**10,112**	**11,779**	**21,891**	**10,728**	**11,924**	**22,652**
LIABILITIES						
Current Liabilities						
Fees paid in advance	(5)	(5)	(10)	(22)	(19)	(41)
Payables	(20)	(8)	(28)	(11)	(3)	(14)
Total Current Liabilities	**(25)**	**(13)**	**(38)**	**(33)**	**(22)**	**(55)**
Non-Current Liabilities						
Refundable Deposits	(2,069)	(3,067)	(5,136)	(2,589)	(2,980)	(5,569)
Total Non-Current Liabilities	**(2,069)**	**(3,067)**	**(5,136)**	**(2,589)**	**(2,980)**	**(5,569)**
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**(2,094)**	**(3,080)**	**(5,174)**	**(2,622)**	**(3,002)**	**(5,624)**
NET ASSETS	**8,018**	**8,699**	**16,717**	**8,106**	**8,922**	**17,028**
EQUITY						
Accumulated Surplus	(2,305)	(1,496)	(3,801)	(1,338)	(914)	(2,252)
Reserves	10,323	10,195	20,518	9,444	9,836	19,280
TOTAL EQUITY	**8,018**	**8,699**	**16,717**	**8,106**	**8,922**	**17,028**

Note : This disclosure is required to qualify for CAP funding for residential care facilities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 40 FUNCTIONS/ACTIVITIES OF THE MUNICIPALITY

(a) Expenses and revenues have been attributed to the following functions/activities, descriptions of which are set out in Note 40(b) (excluding internal recharges).

2008	EXECUTIVE		TREASURY SERVICES		CORPORATE SERVICES		HUMAN SERVICES		CITY DEVELOPMENT		INFRASTRUCTURE		TOTAL	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Grants			4,074	3,995	232	220	12,261	11,912	561	64	79	55	17,207	16,246
Other	160	58	70,006	65,811	5,135	5,303	16,615	16,707	5,472	5,916	6,649	5,934	104,037	99,729
Revenue	160	58	74,080	69,806	5,367	5,523	28,876	28,619	6,033	5,980	6,728	5,989	121,244	115,975
% of Total	0.13%	0.1%	61.10%	60.2%	4.43%	4.8%	23.82%	24.7%	4.98%	5.2%	5.55%	5.2%	100%	100%
Expenses	3,884	4,317	23,380	23,115	13,358	12,813	40,121	40,067	18,162	19,326	20,973	19,588	119,878	119,226
% of Total	3.24%	3.62%	19.50%	19.39%	11.14%	10.75%	33.47%	33.61%	15.15%	16.21%	17.50%	16.43%	100%	100%
Net	(3,724)	(4,259)	50,700	46,691	(7,991)	(7,290)	(11,245)	(11,448)	(12,129)	(13,346)	(14,245)	(13,599)	1,366	(3,251)
Gross Assets allocated by	1,111,301		93,475								475,819		1,680,595	

2007	EXECUTIVE		TREASURY SERVICES		CORPORATE SERVICES		HUMAN SERVICES		CITY DEVELOPMENT		INFRASTRUCTURE		TOTAL	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Grants	2	-	4,292	4,337	130	-	11,830	11,416	161	184	86	55	16,499	15,992
Other	79	57	63,364	67,760	5,765	5,466	15,423	15,473	3,257	5,068	5,912	5,993	93,112	99,817
Revenue	81	57	67,656	72,097	5,895	5,466	27,253	26,889	3,418	5,252	5,998	6,048	110,301	115,809
% of Total	0.07%	0.1%	61.34%	62.3%	5.38%	4.7%	24.86%	4.7%	3.12%	23.2%	5.47%	4.5%	100%	100%
Expenses	3,912	4,164	24,899	30,699	11,537	11,829	38,052	37,183	16,878	18,733	19,050	18,834	114,328	121,442
% of Total	3.42%	3.43%	21.78%	25.28%	10.09%	9.74%	33.28%	30.62%	14.76%	15.43%	16.66%	15.51%	100%	100%
Net	(3,831)	(4,107)	42,757	41,398	(5,642)	(6,363)	(10,799)	(10,294)	(13,460)	(13,481)	(13,052)	(12,786)	(4,027)	(5,633)
Gross Assets allocated by	1,123,548		74,310								457,479		1,655,337	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 40 (b) FUNCTIONS / ACTIVITIES OF THE MUNICIPALITY (CONTINUED)

At balance date the activities of the municipality are categorised into the following broad functions:

Executive

The Executive area provides management and leadership of the organisation as well as liaison with ratepayers and residents of the City. It includes the office of the Chief Executive and administrative support for the Councillors. It provides support for formal Council functions, Governance and Communications. The division also provides support to Council and the community through its civic services and customer service centres.

Treasury Services

The Treasury section details the movement of funds related to grants commission, rate revenue, capital income, interest income and expenses, depreciation and sale of assets.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services provides the City with the Financial, Information Systems, Property and Rating tools necessary for effective management of its resources. The Division has responsibility for the day to day management of the City's financial assets. This division also incorporates the Organisation Development department, managing the human resources, occupational health and safety, and the Compliance department incorporating, local laws, traffic management and risk management.

Human Services

Human Services Division provides the delivery of human services to the ratepayers and residents. This includes supervising the areas of management of Community Care, Parks and Recreation, Health and Family Services, Children's Services and Leisure Services.

City Development

City Development provides the services of an essentially physical nature to the ratepayers and residents. These services include Engineering, Environmental Services, and Statutory Planning, Building Services and Business Development.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure is responsible for City Works, monitoring Capital Works, Parkswide, the Waste Transfer Centre and management of the council's plant & fleet.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 41 FINANCIAL RATIOS

Financial Ratios (performance Indicators)	2008 $'000		2008 (%)	2007 $'000		2007 (%)	2006 $'000		2006 (%)
(a) Debt servicing ratio (to identify the capacity of Council to service its outstanding debt)									
Total revenue	0	=	0%	0	=	0%	0	=	0%
Debt servicing costs	118,514			107,987			99,482		
Debt servicing costs refer to the payment of interest on loan borrowings, finance lease interest and bank overdraft. The ratio expresses the amount of interest paid as a percentage of Council's total revenue.									
(b) Debt commitment ratio (to identify Council's debt redemption strategy)									
Debt servicing and redemption costs	0	=	0%	0	=	0%	0	=	0%
Rate revenue	59,792			55,371			49,323		
The ratio expresses the percentage of rate revenue utilised to pay interest and redeem debt principal. The strategy involves the payment of loan principal and interest, finance lease principal and interest.									
(c) Revenue ratio (to identify Council's dependence on rate income)									
Rate revenue	59,792	=	50.45%	55,371	=	51.28%	49,323	=	49.58%
Total revenue	118,514			107,987			99,482		
The level of Council's reliance on rate revenue is determined by assessing rate revenue as a proportion of the total revenue of Council.									
(d) Debt Exposure Ratio (to identify Council's exposure to total liabilities)									
Total liabilities	36,731	=	1:35.90	30,492	=	1:42.79	29,852	=	1:37.69
Total realisable assets	1,318,557			1,304,888			1,125,422		
For the purposes of the calculation of financial ratios, realisable assets are those assets which can be sold and which are not subject to any restriction on realisation or use.									
The following assets are excluded from total assets when calculating Council's realisable assets:									
Roads and Streets and drains.									
This ratio enables assessment of Council's solvency and exposure to debt. Total indebtedness refers to the total liabilities of Council. Total liabilities are compared to total realisable assets which are all Council assets not subject to any restriction.									
(e) Working Capital Ratio / Liquidity Ratio (to assess Council's ability to meet current commitments)									
Current assets	87,625	=	2.67:1	66,498	=	2.26:1	73,013	=	2.54:1
Current liabilities	32,846			29,367			28,762		
The ratio expresses the level of current assets Council has available to meet its current liabilities.									

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTE 41 FINANCIAL RATIOS (CONTINUED)

Financial Ratios (performance Indicators)	2008 $'000		2008 (%)	2007 $'000		2007 (%)	2006 $'000		2006 (%)
(f) Underlying Result									
Adjusted net surplus/ (deficit)	2,399	=	2.01%	-4,214	=	-3.85%	-7,572	=	-7.16%
Total underlying revenue	119,656			109,494			105,736		

This is a measure of Council's surplus/(deficits) as a percentage of its revenue, adjusted for non monetary contributions and significant one off adjustments (Aged Care Facilities sale redundancies) For surpluses, the higher the percentage, the stronger result. A negative result indicates a deficit. Operating deficits cannot be sustained in the longer-term and deficits by their nature shift the burden of today's costs to future ratepayers.

(g) Indebtedness

Non-current liabilities	3,885	=	3.40%	1,125	=	1.06%	1,095	=	1.11%
Own-sourced revenue	114,207			105,685			98,921		

This is a longer-term measure that compares non-current liabilities (which mainly comprises borrowings) to own-sourced revenue. It complements the liability ratio which is a shorter-term measure. The higher the percentage, the less Council's is able to cover its non-current liabilities from the revenues it generates.

(h) Self-financing

Net operating cashflows	27,852	=	23.28%	21,334	=	19.48%	19,866	=	18.79%
Underlying revenue	119,656			109,494			105,736		

This is a measure of Council's ability to fund the replacement of assets from cash generated by its operations: the higher the percentage, the more able Council is in replacing its assets from its cash generated by its operations.

(i) Investment Gap

Capital spend	28,077	=	1.31:1	24,770	=	1.07:1	27,444	=	1.21:1
Depreciation	21,368			23,178			22,711		

This is a measure of whether Council is spending on infrastructure at a greater rate than the infrastructure is depreciating. Ratios higher than 1:1 indicates that Council is. It is a longer-term indicator, because capital expenditure can be deferred if there are insufficient funds available from operations and borrowings is not an option.

**Notes 41 (f) - (i) represent the Victorian Auditor Generals measures of financial viability.*

CERTIFICATION OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report of Whitehorse City Council for the year ended 30 June 2008 has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989, the Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2004, Australian Accounting Standards, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

Principal Accounting Officer

Marc Giglio CPA

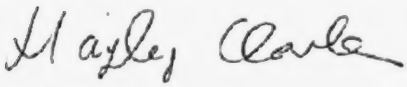
Dated: 21/08/08

Nunawading

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly the financial transactions of Whitehorse City Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2008 and the financial position of the Council as at that date.

As at the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars in the financial report to be misleading or inaccurate.

We were authorised by the Council on 18 August 2008 to certify the financial report in its final form on behalf of the Council.

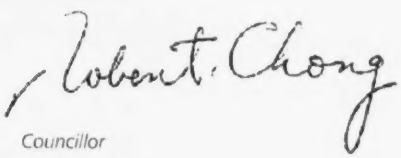


Councillor

Hayley Clarke

Dated: 21/08/08

Nunawading

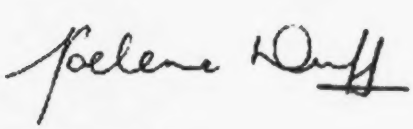


Councillor

Robert Chong

Dated: 21/08/08

Nunawading



Chief Executive Officer

Noelene Duff

Dated: 21/08/08

Nunawading

STANDARD INCOME STATEMENT COMPARISON REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Budget $'000	Actual $'000	Variance $'000	Variance %	Ref
Revenues from Ordinary activities					
Rates	59,390	59,792	402	0.7%	
Grants	16,246	21,395	5,149	31.7%	(i)
Contributions	1,778	766	(1,012)	-56.9%	(i)
User Charges	32,149	31,853	(296)	-0.9%	
Interest	3,286	3,773	487	14.8%	(ii)
Other Revenue	605	935	330	54.5%	
Total Revenues	**113,454**	**118,514**	**5,060**	**4.5%**	
Expenses from Ordinary activities					
Employee Costs	47,704	48,818	(1,114)	-2.3%	(iii)
Materials & Contracts	40,904	40,437	467	1.1%	(iv)
Depreciation	21,521	21,368	153	0.7%	
Other	6,538	6,749	(211)	-3.2%	
Total Expenses	**116,667**	**117,372**	**(705)**	**-0.6%**	
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(38)	(119)	(81)	-213.2%	
Developer Contributions	-	467	467	100.0%	(v)
Share of net profits/(losses) of associates accounted for by the equity method	-	(124)	-	100.0%	(vi)
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	**(3,251)**	**1,366**	**4,617**	**142.0%**	

Explanation of variances in the Standard Income Statement

(i) Grants and Contributions

Capital grants were originally budgeted in the Contribution line with the actual grant received being accounted for in the Grants line item. Council received $3.2 million as capital grant from State and Federal governments for the purchase of the Lake Road land parcel. This was not budgeted in 2007/08.

(ii) Interest

Higher than budgeted interest income due to improved interest rates and a higher average cash balances experianced during the year. A change in investment strategy yielded a higher return received from investing a higher proportion of funds in term deposits as opposed to managed funds.

(iii) Employee Costs

Allowance of $1.5million made for Residential Aged Care Facilities redundancies due to the anticipated sale of Nunawading and Forty Dorking Road Hostels.

(iv) Materials & Contracts

Savings as result of lower thn anticipated waste collection costs for ge .eral, recycling and green waste services.

(v) Developers Contributions

Developers contributions are not included in annual budget as they highly unpredictable in nature.

(vi) Share of net profits (losses) of associates accounted for by the equity method

Share of net profits (losses) in associates is not able to be estimated when the budget is being developed. For this reason no estimate of results is made for any of the investment entities.

STANDARD BALANCE SHEET COMPARISON REPORT

AS AT 30 JUNE 2008

	Budget $'000	Actual $'000	Variance $'000	Variance %	Ref
ASSETS					
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash assets	57,637	62,757	5,120	8.9%	(i)
Trade and other receivables	7,012	7,398	386	5.5%	
Assets held for resale	-	16,748	16,748	100.0%	(iii)
Other	-	722	722	100.0%	
Total Current Assets	**64,649**	**87,625**	**22,976**	**35.5%**	
NON-CURRENT ASSETS					
Receivables	552	442	(110)	-19.9%	
Investments in associates	7,132	8,287	1,155	16.2%	(ii)
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	1,479,326	1,586,354	107,028	7.2%	(iii)
Total of Non-Current Assets	**1,487,010**	**1,595,083**	**108,073**	**7.3%**	
TOTAL ASSETS	**1,551,659**	**1,682,708**	**131,049**	**8.4%**	
LIABILITIES					
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Payables	22,078	23,569	1,491	6.8%	
Employee benefits	8,727	9,078	351	4.0%	
Interest Bearing Loans Borrowings		199	199	100.0%	
Total Current Liabilities	**30,805**	**32,846**	**2,041**	**6.6%**	
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Interest Bearing Loans & Borrowings	3,000	2,801	(199)	-6.6%	
Employee benefits	1,205	1,084	(121)	-10.0%	
Total Non-Current Liabilities	**4,205**	**3,885**	**(320)**	**-7.6%**	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**35,010**	**36,731**	**1,721**	**4.9%**	
NET ASSETS	**1,516,649**	**1,645,977**	**129,328**	**8.5%**	
Represented by:					
Accumulated surplus	661,495	654,006	(7,489)	-1.1%	
Asset Revaluation Reserve	825,954	961,832	135,878	16.5%	(iii)
Other Reserves	29,200	30,139	939	3.2%	
EQUITY	**1,516,649**	**1,645,977**	**129,328**	**8.5%**	

Explanation of variances in the Standard Balance Sheet

(i) Cash Assets

The higher cash balance is due mainly to the budgeted capital works program not entirely completed. A number of significant projects are being carried forward to the 2008/09 capital works program (see Standard Statement of Capital Works). Higher interest dividends has also contributed to the significant variance.

(ii) Investment in Associates

Share of net assets of associates are not budgeted. The higher than normal result is due to changes in accounting treatment for capital expenditure for the Clayton Regional Land Fill Joint Venture. The outcome resulted in a reported surplus for the current and prior financial years being a change from a reported deficit in 2007/08 and the revaluation of non current assets resulting in a higher equity balance for the joint venture and therefore the Council Asset Revaluation Reserve.

(iii) Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

The 2007/08 Budget was completed prior last years revaluation of road infrastructure assets. This resulted in an adjustment of $141 million to road assets in addition to the drainage revaluation conducted in 2007/08 resulting in an adjustment of $17.5 million to infrastructure assets. These adjustments are also reflected in the Asset Revaluation Reserve balance. The variance was also affected by the Council's Residential Aged Care Facilites being transferred to Assets held for Sale pending the proposed sale in 2008/09.

STANDARD CASH FLOW STATEMENT COMPARISON REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Budget $'000	Actual $'000	Variance $'000	Variance %	Ref
Cash flows from operating activities					
Payments					
Employee Costs	(47,253)	(48,016)	(763)	-1.6%	
Materials and Contracts	(40,279)	(37,473)	2,806	7.0%	(i)
Other expenses	(6,538)	(6,749)	(211)	-3.2%	
Receipts					
Rates	59,390	59,732	342	0.6%	
Grants	16,246	17,207	961	5.9%	
User Charges	32,149	31,068	(1,081)	-3.4%	
Interest received	3,286	3,773	487	14.8%	(ii)
Other revenue	605	930	325	53.7%	
Net cash inflow (outflow) from operating activities	**17,606**	**20,472**	**2,866**	**16.3%**	
Cash flows from investing activities					
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	1,358	1,142	(216)	-15.9%	
Repayment of loans and advances	6	6	-	-	
Capital contribution	1,778	4,955	3,177	178.7%	(iii)
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(26,880)	(25,594)	1,286	4.8%	
Net cash inflow (outflow) from investing activities	**(23,738)**	**(19,491)**	**4,247**	**17.9%**	
Cash flows from financing activities					
Proceeds from Borrowings	3,000	3,000	-	-	
Net cash flow from investing activities	**3,000**	**3,000**	**-**	**-**	
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	**(3,132)**	**3,981**	**7,113**	**227.1%**	
Cash at the beginning of the year	60,768	58,776	(1,992)	-3.3%	
Cash at the end of the year	**57,636**	**62,757**	**5,121**	**8.9%**	
Reconciliation of Operating Result and Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities for the year ending 30 June 2008					
Net surplus (deficit) from operations	(3,251)	1,366	4,617		
Depreciation	21,521	21,368	(153)		
Net gain on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(38)	(119)	(81)		
Net movement in assets and liabilities	(626)	(2,143)	(1,517)		
Net cash inflow (outflow) from operating activities	**17,606**	**20,472**	**2,866**		

Explanation of variances in the Standard Cash Flow Statement

(i) Materials and Contracts and User Charges

Savings as result of lower than anticipated waste collection costs for general, recycling and green waste services.

(ii) Interest received

Higher than budgeted interest income due to improved interest rates and a higher average cash balances experianced during the year. A change in investment strategy yielded a higher return received from investing in term deposits as opposed to managed funds.

(iii) Capital contribution

Monies received ($3.2 million) from State & Federal Governments for Lake Road land parcel purchase which was not budgeted in 2007/08. This was offset by an additional expenditure in the capital works program.

STANDARD STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS COMPARISON REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Budget $'000	Actual $'000	Variance $'000	Variance %	Ref
Capital Works Areas					
Roads	4,273	3,209	1,064	25%	(i)
Street Trees	300	346	(46)	-15%	
Drainage	698	705	(7)	-1%	
Parks	2,244	2,156	88	4%	
Buildings	13,393	9,486	3,907	29%	(ii)
Urban Improvements	1,344	1,935	(591)	-44%	
Plant & Equipment	4,629	3,288	1,341	29%	
Land Purchase	-	4,805	(4,805)	100%	(iii)
Total Capital works	**26,881**	**25,930**	**951**	**4%**	
Represented by:					
Renewal	13,033	14,324	(1,291)	-10%	
New	13,847	11,606	2,241	16%	
Total Capital Works	**26,880**	**25,930**	**950**	**4%**	
Property Plant & Equipment movement Reconciliation Worksheet					
Total Capital Works	26,881	25,930	951	4%	
Asset Revaluation	24,057	17,527	6,530	27%	(iv)
Depreciation	(21,521)	(21,368)	(153)	1%	
Written Down Value of Assets sold	(1,396)	(1,261)	(135)	10%	
Developers Contributions	-	467	(467)	100%	
Net transfer of Assets	-	(15,968)	15,968	100%	
Net movement in Property, Plant & Equipment	**28,021**	**5,327**	**22,694**	**81%**	

Explanation of variances in the Standard Statement of Capital Works

(i) Roads

Linum St/Boongarry Ave/Laurel Gve road construction scheme, budgeted for $0.550 million, was not proceeded with during financial year.

(ii) Buildings

The major upgrade of Whitehorse Civic Centre and construction of the Vermont multipurpose indoor sports facility were not completed. These projects are included in the carry over budget for 2008/2009.

(iii) Land Purchase

Purchase of Lake Road land parcel which was included as part of 2006/2007 carry over. This did not included the contributions from the State and Federal governments of $3.2 million

(iv) Asset Revaluation

The 2007/08 Budget was not completed prior revaluation of land, buildings, roads in 2006/07 and drainage in 2007/08.

NOTES ACCOMPANYING THE STANDARD STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION OF STANDARD STATEMENTS

Whitehorse City Council is required to prepare and include audited Standard Statements within its Annual Report. Four Statements are required this year - a Standard Income Statement, a Standard Balance Sheet, a Standard Cash Flow Statement and a Standard Statement of Capital Works, together with explanatory notes.

These statements and supporting notes form a special purpose financial report prepared to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2004.

The Standard Statements have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those used for the General Purpose Financial Report and the Budget. The results reported in these Statements are consistent with those reported in the General Purpose Financial Report.

The Standard Statements are not a substitute for the General Purpose Financial Report, which is included in the Annual Report. They have not been prepared in accordance with all Australian Accounting Standards or other authoritative professional pronouncements.

The Standard Statements compare the Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The Local Government Act 1989 requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of 10 per cent or where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

The budget figures included in the Standard Statements are those adopted by the Council on 18 June 2007. The budget was based on assumptions that were relevant at the time of adoption of the budget. The Council set guidelines and parameters for revenue and expense targets in this budget in order to meet the Council's business plan and financial performance targets for both the short and long term.

Detailed information on the actual financial results are contained in the General Purpose Financial Report. The Standard Statements must be read with reference to this document.

Standard Income Statement

The Standard Income Statement shows what has happened during the year in terms of revenue, expenses and other adjustments from all activities. The 'Total Changes in Equity' or 'bottom line' shows the total difference between the financial position at the beginning and the end of the year.

The Statement Income Statement requires revenue to be separately disclosed where the item is of such a size, nature or incidence that its disclosure is relevant in explaining the performance of Whitehorse City Council. The Standard Income Statement also shows the movement in equity, so that a separate Statement of Changes in Equity is not necessary.

Standard Balance Sheet Statement

The Standard Balance Sheet Statement shows a snap shot of all the assets and liabilities as at 30 June. It shows the total of what is owned (assets) less what is owed (liabilities). The bottom line of this statement is net assets, which is net worth of Council.

The change in net assets between two year's Standard Statements of Balance Sheet shows how the financial position has changed over that period.

The assets and liabilities are separated into current and non-current.

Standard Cash Flow Statement

The Standard Cash Flow Statement shows what has happened during the year in terms of cash. It explains what cash movements have resulted in the difference in the cash balance at the beginning and the end of the year.

The net cash flows from operating activities shows how much cash remains after paying for services to the community which may be invested in things such as capital works. The information in the Standard Cash Flow Statement assists users in the assessment of Council's ability to generate cash flows, meet financial commitments as they fall due including the servicing of borrowings (Whitehorse does not have any outstanding loans) and fund changes in the scope or nature of activities. A reconciliation of operating result and net cash flows from operating activities has been added to highlight noncash items of significance.

Standard Statement of Capital Works

The Standard Statement of Capital Works set out all capital expenditure that has been spent or is expected to be spent in relation to non-current assets during the financial year.

It also shows whether this expenditure is renewing, expanding or upgrading existing assets or creating new assets. This is important because each of these categories has a different impact on Council's future costs.

CERTIFICATION OF THE STANDARD STATEMENTS

In my opinion, the accompanying standard statements of Whitehorse City Council for the year ended 30 June 2008 have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with the financial report and in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2004.

Principal Accounting Officer

Marc Giglio CPA

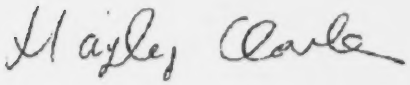
Dated: 21/08/08

Nunawading

In our opinion, the accompanying standard statements have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with the financial report and in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2004.

As at the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars in the standard statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We were authorised by the Council on 18 August 2008 to certify the standard statement in their final form on behalf of the Council.

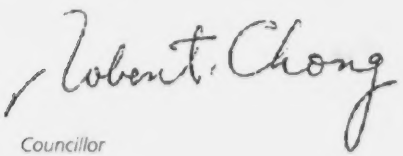


Councillor

Hayley Clarke

Dated: 21/08/08

Nunawading

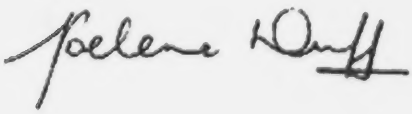


Councillor

Robert Chong

Dated: 21/08/08

Nunawading



Chief Executive Officer

Noelene Duff

Dated: 21/08/08

Nunawading

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Victorian Auditor-General's Office

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Councillor's, Whitehorse City Council

The Financial Report and Standard Statements

The accompanying financial report for the year ended 30 June 2008 of Whitehorse City Council which comprises of an income statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cashflow statement, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes to and forming part of the financial report, and the certification of the financial report has been audited.

The accompanying standard statements for the year ended 30 June 2008 of Whitehorse City Council which comprises of a standard income statement, standard balance sheet, standard cashflow statement, standard statement of capital works, the related notes and the certification of the standard statements have been audited.

The Councillor's Responsibility for the Financial Report and Standard Statements

The Councillor's of Whitehorse City Council are responsible for the preparation and the fair presentation of:

- the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the financial reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act* 1989
- the standard statements in accordance with the basis of preparation as described in note 1 of the statements and the requirements of the *Local Government Act* 1989.

This responsibility includes:

- establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and standard statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies
- making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the *Audit Act* 1994, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report and standard statements based on the audit, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report and standard statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report and standard statements. The audit procedures selected depend on judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report and standard statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, consideration is given to internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and standard statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used, and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Councillors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report and standard statements.

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Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Matters Relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Financial Report and Standard Statements

This auditor's report relates to the financial statements published in both the annual report and on the website of Whitehorse City Council for the year ended 30 June 2008. The Councillor's are responsible for the integrity of the web site. I have not been engaged to report on the integrity of the web site. The auditor's report refers only to the statements named above. An opinion is not provided on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to or from these statements. If users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications, they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial report to confirm the information included in the audited financial report presented on Whitehorse City Council web site.

Independence

The Auditor-General's independence is established by the *Constitution Act* 1975. The Auditor-General is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which his powers and responsibilities are to be exercised. In conducting the audit, the Auditor-General, his staff and delegates complied with all applicable independence requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion:

- the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Whitehorse City Council as at 30 June 2008 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), and the financial reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act* 1989.
- The standard statements present fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of preparation as described in note 1 to the statements and comply with the requirements of the *Local Government Act* 1989.

MELBOURNE
22 August 2008

C. D. R. Pearson
Auditor-General

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Auditing in the Public Interest

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